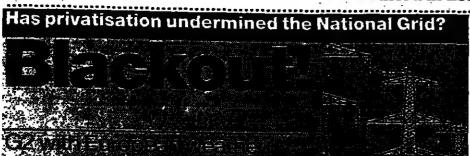
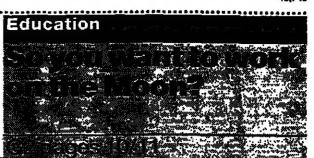
Tuesday December 31 1996

Ine Guardia







Sir Paul arises and Sir Andrew rises as showbiz glitter sprayed over New Year honours



Former Beatle Paul McCartney, knighted in a list laden with headline-grabbing potential

Political Editor

Andrew Lloyd Webber becomes a lord this morning and Paul McCartney, his cheerier rival in Britain's flourishing musical export market, becomes Sir Paul as part of a 1,085-name New Year's Honours List sprinkled with show business glitter.

Hard on their heels in headline-grabbing poten-tial come OBEs for Cilla Black, pop star turned matchmaking matron on television's Blind Date, and for Joan Collins, the 63year-old siren whose pri-vate life is even more exotic than roles like Dynasty's Alexis Carrington.

Lord Lloyd Webber com-posed the Conservative Party's 1992 campaign theme music. His is one of many awards with political overtones from the fund-raisers' list.

But the knighthood for Alec Bedser, test cricketer

New Sherrin, the Licentification of CSI polymath, gets a CBE, as does Frederick Forsyth, as does Frederick Forsyth Forsy

and pillar of the MCC estab-lishment, may be John Ma-jor's own nostalgic choice, October. "You are hurting lishment, may be John Ma-jor's own nostalgic choice, as could Frankie Vaughan, the 1950s pop idol whose CBE is for youth work.

Damon Hill's OBE is for winning this year's For-mula One world championship. David Seaman, Eng-land's goalkeeper, gets an MBE as does Martin Offiah, given a parking ticket to her chief constable.

the England rugby league player. The rower Steve Redgrave gets a CBE. The feel-good factor was underlined by an honorary OBE for Terry Wogan, an Irish citizen, for "services to broadcast entertainment

and to charity". Higher culture was recog-Alan Ayckbourn, the dra-matist, and Richard Eyre, artistic director of the National Theatre. The 93-year-old Oxford historian, A. L. Rowse, becomes a Companion of Honour. Ned Sherrin, the theatri-

us, Freddy. You are damag-ing us," Mr Major later told

At the lower end of what is still a class-conscious dan Ryelyn Greechan gets an MBE despite having

There are two other new life peers: Raj Kumar Ba-gri, the self-made Asian businessman and philanthropist who chairs the London Metal Exchange, and Dame Andrey Emer Higher culture was recognised with knighthoods for and health administrators. A third of recipients are women and there are four new dames, including Bar-bara Mills, the director of public prosecutions. Ann Turn to page 2, column 5

page 8; Rain of Ks and Notebook,

Honour bound Some of the Bent

Cilin Black

(Industry Robert Horton John Laing

German 'meddling' Kinkel riles Tory

The Conservative MEP, Graham Mather, added that Anglo-German relations

would be damaged unless Chancellor Helmut Kohl dis-

avowed his foreign minister's

omments. Mr Kinkel's statement

echoed German exasperation

with British blocking tactics in the EU after a year in which Britain's relations

guably their lowest ebb in de-cades. But the remarks may

also signal a shift in strategy

in Bonn in an attempt to woo

Britain in the year ahead. German officials insisted

that Mr Kinkel had issued a

"goodwill gesture" to London, though it was clear last night

country must reach a clear decision on its European pol-

icy," the message stated.
"Britain must become clear
on what depth of integration

it wants to reach," a foreign

ministry spokesman added. "We want Britain to be

together with others, achieve

as deep an integration as

In an interview published

yesterday, Chancellor Kohl's

number two, Wolfgang Schäu-

ble, voiced hopes that the gen-eral election would clarify Britain's stance on the single

possible.

Euro-sceptics

decision for Europe" and de-manded that whichever party wins must make up its mind about British policy towards the European Union.

The unusual and controversial statement, seen by lead-ers of Britain's three main parties as unwelcome meddling in the election campaign, was contained in the New Year message of the for-eign minister, Klans Kinkel. which put the election top of the list of German foreign pol-

Althonoh the statement was careful to avoid taking sides construed as tacit backing for Tony Blair and the Labour Party, since Bonn is desperate to see a less Euro-obstruc-

tionist team in power. As well as triggering criticism from the three main par-ties, Mr Kinkel's perceived intervention also sparked howis of outrage from Tory Euro-sceptics, threatening a fresh round of internecine Tory

warfare over the EU. But Brian Mawhinney, the Tory Party chairman, said Mr Kinkel's comments proved that Bonn wanted to retain tiating for Britain and not an untested Blair cabinet.

Robin Cook, the shadow foreign secretary, said Mr Kin-kel would be better advised to debate the single European currency with his own reluctant public rather than advis-

ing Britons how to vote. judge each [integration] pro-posal on its merits and that is certainly an advance on the present Conservative Govern-ment which judges anything which comes out of Europe in negative terms simply because it came from Europe in

the first place." Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, de-scribed the Kinkel message as unwise and unhelpful.

The Conservative Eurosceptic MP, Sir Teddy Taylor, said: "Public opinion in Germany is moving against a single currency and a single European state. He [Mr Kinkell should try and sort out currency and other crucial issues on the 1997 KU agenda.
"At the moment, it has to be realised, Great Britain is in a difficult situation politically. But that will pass," he told Der Spiegel magazine. "None-theless, I am optimistic. I hope Great Britain will be there when monetary union

The remarks reflected Bonn's belief that Britain's difficult relationship with the EU could come to a head in 1997 and that the current equivocation and ambivalence will have to yield to

Mr Kinkel's statement which Anglo-German relations were soured by the mad cow disease dispute, a row over the disposal of the Brent Spar oil platform in the North Ses, and ongoing fundamen-tal differences at the running conference trying to draft a conference trying to draft a new EU constitution.

Although Mr Kinkel's pokesman insisted that the alection was a matter for the British electorate, there is no doubt that the Kohl camp is hoping for a Blair win.

servative, his closest European soulmates have been social democrats, such as Jacques Delors, François Mitter-rand and Felipe González, whereas his frostiest relationships have been with fellow conservatives, notably Margaret Thatcher.

Mr Kohl also seems to be having increasing problems seeing eye-to-eye with another conservative leader, President Jacques Chirac of France, which may help to explain the seeming shift to court Britain in the Paris-

US sets up historic deal over Hebron

Jessica Berry in Jerusalem SRAELI and Palestinian negotiators said last night that a deal on the with-drawal of Israeli troops from

-

fat. Palestinian officials Said troops would leave Hebron a week after the leaders met.

The United States peace envoy, Dennis Ross, flew back to the region last night after briefing President Bill Clinton. Pressure from Washington is believed to be largely versurable for the progress.

yahu, and the Palestinian Authority president, Yasser Arafat. Palestinian officials said mon Peres suspended the withdrawal after a spate of Palestinian suicide attacks.

The Israeli defence minis-ter, Yitzhak Mordechai, who met Mr Arafat in Gaza on the West Bank rown of Hebron was close, after nearly nine months of bitter dispute.

An agreement will pave the way for a summit, possibly today, between Israel's prime minister, Binyamin Netan-

would attend the summit.
It was unclear last night what concessions had been agreed, but an Israeli spokes-man said that the success of

the withdrawal would depend on a "gradual build-up" of mutual confidence. Mr Netanyahu's chief policy adviser, David Bar-Illan, said a deal would be possible if the Palestinians dropped demands

Palestinian officials said US | for a joint armed presence at and Egyptian representatives | the Tomb of the Patriarchs in the centre of Hebron, where Jews and Arabs pray. There are 52 Jewish fam ilies in Hebron, surrounded by about 100,000 Palestinians.

Noam Arnon, their spokes-man, said that the town ghetto in the Middle Ages".

Carreptell, criticised
Englate Torceing
patronsing after
the 1935 seems

The Guardian's Alan Rusbridger has been voted Britain's most respected editor in a Mori survey of 34 of the country's leading editors. He received 12 votes in

the annual poll to choose the "editor's editor", with Paul Dacre of the Daily Mail in second place with nine votes.



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Sketch

Supermodels strut their stuff



Stuart Millar

IVE days after Christma and the children are already bored with their new toys. But for thousands of big kids yesterday the fun was fust beginning.

In an atmosphere thick with pipe smoke and the smell of engine grease, earnest-look-ing enthusiasts contentedly tinkered with their model trains, staged mock gunboat battles and absent-mindedly picked super glue from under tobacco-stained nails. Wel-come to the International Model Show — the biggest and most prestigious event in the scale modelling calendar

Stepping through the doors of the vast exhibition hall at London's Olympia arena, visitors to the show enter a fantasy world devoid of such of-fensively populist playthings as computer games. In this gentle land, fathers can redis-cover the childhood happiness of reproducing the real world in miniature while their offspring argue at home over the Sony Playstation.

On the left, a man earns gasps from the crowd as he guns the engine on his lov-ingly built Ferrari Dino, an exact quarter-scale replica of the real thing right down to the rev counter and the trademark keyring. To the right, another man waxes lyrical about the joys of submarine modelling. Upstairs in the gal-lery, yet another man proudly exhibits his full-size Rhinoc eros model, bizarrely choppe in half Damien Hirst style. In short, this is a land populated almost exclusively by

Take Chris Lyons, for example. A train driver by trade, he has devoted his life to taking his work home with him. "I've been doing this since I was a little boy," Mr Lyons, aged 60, explained as he patiently pieced together a goods wagon which experts would immediately recognise as a 4mm gauge meat van. "Like most

The agony and

the execrable

Review

Stephen Moss

Anne Atkins (Sceptre, 26.99)

T'S easy to make fun of

Anne Atkins, but that shouldn't stop us. Scourge of sodomites, abortionists and

woolly liberals everywhere,

in the three months since her assault on gay Christians on Thought for the Day she has

become the mouthpiece of right-thinking Middle En-

glanders through her dual role as Daily Telegraph agony aunt and resident moralist. She is married to a vicar,

be a wife and mother, and, famously, has only slept with

novels and her second, On Our

Own, is about to be published

Does one review the novel

or attempt to deconstruct the

more proper but, when the

mrofitable.

Ms Atkins may be a suspect agony aunt — cold baths and Christian commitment seem

to be the answer to most prob lems — but as a writer, she

has one problem: an almost

complete inability to write.

The plot concerns a family crisis, wife battering and the

nurder of the husband. Did

the wronged wife do it? That

conundrum has to sustain our

interest for 320 pages. There is an extraordinary amount of

structure concerning a writer

who is planning a book on Mo-

zart and lots of tedious detail

murder victim is the choir-

about life in Cambridge — the

In the New Year Guardian

What will 1997 hold? A Labour

election victory? A black Pope?

An American landing on Mars?

We sum up the prospects,

predict developments and

shakers for the coming year.

identify the movers and

The shape of things to come:

padding: a spurious super-

book is this bad, not very

one man. She also writes

in paperback.

crificed her acting career to

On Our Own

onle. I started building little tin plate kits then gradually started making my own from plastic or metal. I try to put in at least one hour every day, especially when we have a big exhibition coming up."

Near by, a future model train nut was being shaped as five-year-old Lewis Chapman put Railtrack to shame with his expert control of three different trains on a complex layout. "He loves it," said his

mum, Julie, from Harlow, Essex. "We have brought him here every year since he was one year old. It's worth it for the look on his face, but it's also a good excuse for us to

He was playing on a layout built by the Model Railway Club, founded in London in 1910 and now the oldest club devoted to the hobby in the world. Alas, young talent such as

Lewis has become rare, as competition in the hobby mar-ket has expanded with the development of ever more sophisticated technology. If railways represent the nostal-gic past of modelling, then the future lies with the motor car - high-powered, four-wheel rive, remote control car ractug to be exact.

Around a giant racing cir-cuit, a large noisy crowd of youngsters watched as William Mitcham powered his way into the show's championship finals in his Predator XK5 remote control car with style Damon Hill could only dream about.

For Mr Mitcham, a 21-yearold farm manager from Suf-folk, this is not so much a hobby as a professional sport. "When I was 10 I bought a magazine about model cars. From something that started as a very small hobby, it has now almost become a full-tim Now sponsored by a model

car manufacturer, he spends much of the year competing in glamorous locations around the world. "It is a big money industry, but when I tell people about it, they think we are either big kids or car racers who couldn't cut it in real cars."

For 15-year-old Graham Rose, a spectator from Finch-ley, north London, nothing could be further from the truth. "It's the busine · Video games are good, but this is the real thing."

none of this can disguise the

for the banality of the writing

the action takes place in tea shops, and Ms Atkins appears to have an almost pathological

"Theo's scone was gross in its proportions, like something

in a John Wyndham novel, a

sized and uncontrollable tea-cakes and eventually threaten

to take over the world." Yes, I see, have you considered seeking professional help?

As moral philosophy, the novel is more instructive: do

your duty, help others, work to keep your marriage intact

and put your trust in God. The book ends with the preco-cious, entirely incredible

nine-year-old son of the mur-dered man discovering God:

what to say. It didn't matter. He didn't need to say

anything."
It is, however, shocking to

parents having a long and vig-orous cuddle, and knew they wouldn't have wanted him

Say your prayers, Theo. Louder, louder.

vast mutant scone which would breed with other out-

bsession with scones:

and the preoccupation with middle-class meals. Much of

Foreign Office welcomes concessions offered to lawyer appointed by Britons accused of murder

Boost for Saudi trial nurses

Kathy Evans HE two British nurses accused of murder in Saudi

Arabia appointed a prominent Englishspeaking Saudi lawyer yester day but there were conflicting reports on what role he might be allowed to play in court. The kingdom's London ambassador, Dr Ghazi Algosaibi aid the lawyers would be granted access to them in prison and would be allowed

present.
The Foreign Office immedi

to attend the court hearings. Interpreters could also be

rpokesman said.

Legal circles in Sandi Arabia maintained it was highly unusual for lawyers to be present in criminal cases in the Sharia courts. "Judges are usually very suspicious of lawyers and they normally do not attend," one criminal law yer said yesterday. The case of the two British

nurses, Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, is rapidly becoming a major diplomatic roblem between London and Riyadh. Resentment is growing among Saudi officials over British fears that the nurses might not receive a fair trial British officials yesshould be careful not to assume that because their procedures are completely differ ent, they are necessarily unjust," said Britain's amba sador to Saudi Arabia, Andrew Green.

It was still unclear, how ever, what the nurses' lawyer would be allowed to do in court. He will not be able to cross-examine Saudi police offloers; that is the prerogative of the judge. "What Islamic law does not allow is for law-yers to make clever tactical arguments to defend their clients. They will only be allowed to give the women's version of events," a leading islamic jurist, Dr Zaki Bedawi said.

volving an American, a Jed-dah-based lawyer was allowed to attend the court, but only in the capacity of a translator The judge concerned asked why an American should be granted special treatment.

Prison officials allowed a British consular official to see the woman for 15 minutes each in a central police station in Dhahran yesterday. They said they were being treated well. "They are naturally suxious about the charges but bearing up well," Mr Green said.

Saudi press coverage of the case continued unabated. Yes terday, Al Hayat newspaper reported that the alleged nurses took place in the early hours of December 12 when all three women were weer-

The pre-trial reporting of the case, leaked by high-level Saudi police officials, is un precedented in the kingdom. ournalists have never been allowed to report on individual cases, or attend trials, and usually the first news of a major crime is only issued after the execution is carried out. Speculation is growing among journalists that the Saudi authorities may be trying to sour British public opinion about the character of the two nurses in advance

of a trial verdict. The organisation Fair Trials Abroad said yesterday

that the deluge of prejudicial reports in the Saudi papers constituted grounds for a mistrial.

"If any British paper reported such details, they would be inside for contempt would be inside for contempt very quickly. There has been a deliberate poisoning of the case, and I believe we are heading for a fundamentally flawed trial by any basic rules of justice." the organisation's spokesman, Stephen Jakobi,

spokesman. Stephen Jaken.
said yesterday.
According to Saudi press
reports, the two nurses have
confessed to the accidental
killing of Yvonne Gilford. The
Australian nurse was stabled
four times, battered with a
hammer and smothered, the
Saudi media reported.



Drivers warned as heavy snow predicted in the south

Vivek Chaudhare

RITAIN is set to wel-Boome the new year in temperatures of around -4C in most parts of an AA spokesman." the country, with heavy witless prose.
Enid Blyton is the comparison that springs to mind, both

killed at least 90 people in Europe in recent days, is expected to last at least ing organisations have warned drivers to take extra precautions, particu-larly those living in south-ern England.

[south] region in the next 24 hours, so we are warning people only to travel if they have to, and to take sensible precautions, said

Roads in Kent have be snow expected in many particularly affected by the cold spell with black ice and drifting snow causing problems for motorists. In some parts of the county more than 1% inches of mow have fallen.

Crisis, the charity for the homeless, is to keep 11 of its Christmas shelters open until the end of the week because of the severe cold weather.

"There is a 70 per cent | In Europe the cold has day, bringing the toll there

chance of snow in the | caused transport chaos | from Moscow to the Mediterranean. The Venice lagoon has frozen over, and southern Russia, avalauches have trapped up to 300 people and their vehi-

cles in a tunnel for days. In Romania, more than 20 people froze to death in blizzards, according to offi-cial sources. Unofficial reports said 24 — mainly elderly, homeless, and beggars — had died in Bucha-

rest alone. Bulgaria was also badly hit by cold-related deaths, with nine people found fro-zen in snow storms on Sunweather for 10 years, with 17 deaths recorded in the

past week.

The harsh conditions extended as far south as the Valencia region, near Spain's Mediterranean Spain's Mediterraneau day, writes Erlend Ciousion.

Schoolboys Peter Lawlor, Schoolboys Peter Lawlor, aged 16, and Neil Thomson, aged 17, were stranded on the mountain for 24 hours.

to 19 since Christmas Eve. est snowfall in a decade at | Sunday's midday mist after | Poland reported its coldest | the weekend, with 10,000 | venturing off-piste in people left without Two young show-

boarders reported lost on the 4,084ft Cairngorm mountain in Scotland were

search of more demanding

slopes.
They were picked up by an RAF helicopter as they began a five-mile walk to the nearest telephone. John Allen, leader of the Cairngorm mountain rescue team, said the boys could consider themselves lucky

Corsica suffered its heavi- They had become lost in | Weather, G2, page 16

Food poisoning McCartney and Lloyd Webber inquiry urged

N MP yesterday de-"Funnily enough, now that he could pray, he didn't know manded an investiga-tion into the accelerating incidence of Scottish food poisoning as controversy con-tinued over the outbreak of & coll infection which has killed 6 people. George Foulkes, Labour MP

find that our godly guide can write a torrid sex scene, told through the eyes (or rather the ears) of young Theo: "A long time later, when they must have thought him asleep, he for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, said he would ask the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, to widen the heard them moving in bed, and his mother giggling, and then saying 'Just a minute,' inquiry into the epidemic to look at an overall food poisoning rate that could reach and getting up and shutting 10,000 cases this year. the door . . . After the door was shut, he heard the noise of his "It seems to me that there is an epidemic of food poisoning

in Scotland, and that the E. coli outhreak, although the most disastrous, would appear to be only the tip of a very large leeberg," he said.

Mr Foulkes described as "section of the control of the cont "astonishing" Scottish Office figures which showed that confirmed notifications of food poisoning had risen from 858 in 1970 to 6,510 in 1990. By November 1 this year, Scot-land had recorded 8,408 cases,

compared to 7.572 for the com-parable period last year.
"I will be telling Mr For-syth that the whole question of food hygiene is neglected with cuts in grants to local authorities and people involved in the inspection of premises," Mr Foulkes said. Earlier, alarm had spread cross central Scotland when the Scotmid chain unexpectedly took space in two news-

cooked pies, bakery goods or uncooked sausages" before November 25, and frozen them, to return them to their

them, to return them to their nearest store.

The general nature of the appeal suggested that all Scotmid's 61 stores could have sold on the Wishaw butcher's meat products linked to the food poisoning outbreak suspected by last night of infecting 409 people, 16 of them fatally. The original list of 80-plus outlets named only 12 Scotmid addresses.

Scotmid addresses.

The implication clearly surprised the Lanarkshire Health Board. The information that we published was based on information sup-plied by the butcher, John Barr, and extracted from a detailed examination of his books," said a spokesman. The Scottish Office said it

was puzzled by the phrasing.
John Reid, the Labour MP for
Motherwell North, accused
the company of either causing a panic or concealing the truth for four weeks.
A spokesman for Scotmid explained later that the adver-

tisements were nothing more sinister than an extension of its in-store poster campaign alerting customers to the epidemic.
"Only the 12 named stores ever sold Mr Barr's prod-ucts," he said. "We just wanted to make sure we cov-

ered every angle. People

naybe missed the original no-

tices, and, anyway, how many people always know what they have in their freezer?

The usual crop of hon-

honours list

top bill in glitzy

continued from page 1 Chant, chief of the embat-tied Child Support Agency, becomes a Companion of the Bath.

As the list was published at midnight, Labour pointed out that four new knights with voluntary serring sylin voluntary service achievements — training specialist Peter Davis, Graeme Odgers, chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, David Rowland, chairman of Lloyds, and Michael Pickard, of the London Docklands Development Corporation - are also associated with firms that have given money to the Conservatives.

Bob Horton, Railtrack

chairman, is among the Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, also be-comes a knight, a relatively rare honour among Afro-Caribbean Britons.

ours for serving politicians saw knighthoods go to three Tory MPs — bringing the total since 1979 to 133, or one every six weeks, ac-cording to Labour's Denis MacShane — Nicholas Baker, Cyril Townsend and Ray Whitney, all loyalists.
The eight new privy counsellors — Rt Hons to the trade — include middle-ranking ministers like David Davis, Eric Forth,

Michael Jack, and Ann Widdecombe, the Home

Office minister.

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The v tern & lates Briles

girth #

Children said to play among mustard gas canisters



Blast fear at French arms dump



Security is lax, and souvenir hunters can break in

Paul Webster in Paris reports on the row over the safety of a store of rusting, unexploded first world war ammunition

tion dump on the battlefield around Vimy in France is at the centre of a row between military and local government officials after reports that the weapons are in danger of exploding.

More than 500 tonnes of unexploded British, French German bombs and shells, including dozens of mustard gas containers. are stocked in a 1,000 sq ft site protected by a wire fence and a padiocked gate. But concern over safety has increased after a much smaller weapons dump at up a fortnight ago. No one was hurt but 200 houses had to be evacuated.

The Vimy dump, established nearly 50 years ago among fields in the Pas-de-Calais, contains the biggest collection of first world war ammunition in the country, all of it recovered from battlefields in the north. Occasionally, second world war bombs are also third of the ammunition.

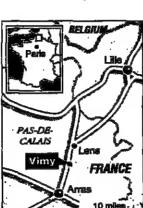
The depot was intended been no result. The Vimy

area for the ammunition before it was taken to the up under water by the army. But recently environmental organisations have opposed the method because they say it threat-ens one of Europe's most

Hundreds of shells and bombs, some weighing nearly a toune, are stacked apart from occasional pat-with military neatness, but rols, it could not keep a porary hand grenades are kept in buckets. Because of the de-lay in destruction, many weapons are rusty, and gas has been seen leaking from containers.

The mayor of Vimy, Lionel Lancry, said that de-spits concern that children use the dump as a play-ground and that souvenir hunters often break in the army refuses to place a guard. The only warning of potential risk is a small wooden sign saying *"danger*

The Pas-de-Calais local government authority in Arras said there had been several protests to the minbrought in. Chemical stry of the interior, which weapons make up around a third of the ammunition.



Colonel Philippe Mechin, who heads the army's bomb squad, said the ammuni-tion was safer at Vimy than on the roadsides or in the fields and villages from where it was recovered in unmarked dumps.

a stock at Vimy but environmentalists and local ingly opposed to controlled explosions," he said, adding that the army had been considering for some time a considering for some time a plan to set up a gnarded site inside a military camp. "As Vimy is supposed to be Vimy is supposed to be closed down one of these days, nobody is interested in spending money on tem-

Experts say war pension rules unfair

Services Correspondent

ONTROVERSY over will haunt ministers into the new year researchers yesterday warned that hardly any mili-tary veterans will qualify for a deafness pension under the Government's new rules.

The researchers say the rules announced earlier this month are "grossly unfair".

They are strongly denying ministerial claims that they support them and that they e consulted.

The Department of Social Security yesterday confirmed that the rules had already been put into effect and were being applied retrospectively to some 2,000 war pension deafness claims lodged since March 1. Almost all are likely

to be rejected.

Ministers, who have been hlaming the press for whipping up needless alarm over he war pension changes, now look certain to face renewed backbench protests when Par-liament returns next month.

to save £35 million a year eventually. Combined with other "simplification" other "simplification" changes to war pensions, now out for consultation, a total £50 million will be saved

Under the new deamess rules, ex-service personnel will be ineligible for life for a war pension for hearing loss unless there was evidence of the damage before they left the armed forces. They will the limited by the limited by the same of the sa also be ineligible for any pen-sion increase as hearing deta-riorates in later life.

A previous change, in 1993, barred payment of any pen-sion in cases of hearing loss of less than 20 per cent. The Government claims it

was obliged to bring in the new rules because medical opinion had become clear that hearing loss could not be attributed to exposure to gun-fire or explosions once the individual had left the forces.

The change is said to have been based on a paper sum-marising medical research and opinion, prepared by Elizabeth Braidwood, a DSS medical adviser. Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish. social security minister ressenting view.

social security minister, has said in a letter to Vernon Labour opponent in his Ged-ling constituency, that Dr Braktwood's findings "reflect the views of experts at the Medical Research Council In-stitute of Hearing".

The Nottingham-based in stitute, which also has cen-tres in Glasgow and Southampton, is the leading authority on deafness re-search Ross Coles, its spokesman, said he and his col-leagues had not been formally consulted and did not endorse the conclusions Dr Braid

wood had drawn.
"We cannot find anyone
who discussed it with them,
as they claim, and our view is that while Dr Braidw most of her facts right, she has interpreted them wrongly," Dr Coles said. He added that it was grossly unfair to apply a "low fence

Researchers say changes will rule out almost all claims for

deafness pensions

— the 20 per cent hearing loss threshold — and then make no allowance for further loss of hearing through ageing. The combined effect, he argued, was to rule out almost all claims for deafness pen-

"It has virtually ended compensation for military deaf-ness," Dr Coles said. "I have seen quite a few Northern Irecome up to the level required; as regards the ordinary mili-

tary, virtually none.
"If you look at data from the Falklands, nobody would get compensation for noise injury on the basis of the new rules."

According to confidential DSS documents, about 10,000 claims they would have won previously.

A DSS spokeswoman said Dr Braidwood had consulted the hearing institute through its Glasgow centre. The new is interested possible for war pensions, rules had been backdated to oney on temporate protection no medical experts with a diswhen the medical consensus had become clear.

Blair savages 'weak' Major

Labour leader promises to bring the Tory party to "grow and clothing that pensioners will no longer have the basic state down Government in New Year that with his own record pension upgraded in line with down Government in New Year

ONY BLAIR last night laid claim to the mantle of national leadership when he accused John Major of being too weak to manage his party, let alone the country, and promised to bring down the Government "in any way we can" in the

Next year would be "the year the Government finally has to face the people's verdict. Britain needs a general election as soon as possible to restore firm and coherent government, the Labour

As he spoke. Tory strate-gists put the finishing touches on their own New Year advertising campaign — "the most negative campaign so far" party sources have said — to be launched next week with the intention of bly allowing divisions within placed on food and children's from here," one said.

undermining the steadfast qualities Mr Blair claims for

his own leadership. The Tory chairman, Brian Mawhinney, last night offered a foretaste of hand-to-hand fighting ahead as the Government struggles to stave off a tote of no confidence now that its Commons majority has disappeared. He predicted Labour would campaign on "Five Lies — five completely invented charges about what the Cerservative Party will do after we are re-elected".

In contrast to the Prime Minister's soothing seasonal message to supporters, Mr Blair painted a picture of a country falling behind its rivals in skills, public services and national wealth, burdened with higher taxes, escalating crime and a costly "BSE flasco" which demon-strated the collapse of Consersince 1994 as the man who changing the party's constituship and modernising its pol-

icy objectives.
Voters would "know that a strong country cannot be built on weak leadership. so weak that it cannot run a party cannot be trusted to run the country" be declared before restating New Labour's goals: economic partnership, educational opportunity, decentralised power, a reformed welfare state and an effective

EU role. But Mr Mawhinney's tactic last night did surprise Labour election planners. In a tough statement, billed as his own New Year message to staff at party HQ, he specified which "five lies" he expects to be hit by in Labour attacks next month.
They are: that the Tories

The voltage drops. Lights dim. Suddenly electric

ordered. Electric fires go out, electric blankets

later there is no alternative. Blackouts are

fires are not as hot as they should be. Ten minutes

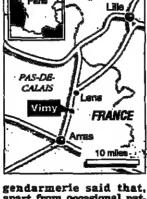
and kettles stay cold. And so does the population.

inflation; that water metering will become compulsory; and that there will be "more guns and knives on the streets".

All have been denied by ministers, though touted by assorted policymakers. Mr Mawhinney's pre-emptive tactic evoked memories of the celebrated "Ten Labour Lies" campaign launched by Conservative Central Office and the Daily Mail in 1979, among Thatcher government would double VAT — also much de-

nied at the time. In the event it rose from a basic 8 per cent to 15 per cent in Lord Howe's first budget enough to allow the ex-chan-cellor to call the denial more than "a semantic quibble" in

his memoirs. Last night Labour officials denied any such intention, but thanked Mr Mawhinney for publicising such plausible



watch on the depot.

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180 120 60 180 120 60 MORRS MORRS MORRS MORRS MORRS £15.000 174.05 209.83 328.96 194.93 235.01 368.43 11.9% £10,000 | 116,03 | 139,89 | 219,30 | 129,96 | 156 57 | 245.62 28,000 | 102.00 | 120.22 | 182.70 | 114.33 | 134 65 | 204 62 £5,000 63.60 75.14 114.19 71.46 84 16 127 89

ypical Example: Borrow C10.000 over 5 years at 11.9% APR (variable) and your nonthly repayments will be just 52.19.30 with a lotal repayment of £13,156.00. Luxus are secured by a mortgage on your property. could cover your repayments in the

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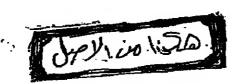
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Tories plan to boost opt-outs

John Carvel Education Editor

CONSERVATIVE help parents and achers set up a new generation of self-governing schools in competition with local education authorities is being considered by the Prime Minister.

"Charter schools" would be given basic state funding ac-cording to the number of pupils, but they would be en-couraged to top this up with finance from local businesses

and voluntary organisations.
Ministers think the scheme could provide an opportunity for enterprising teachers and parents in the run-down inner office. inner cities, or in villages where educational provision has been withdrawn as population declined.

The first steps towards the new model are being put in place in the Education Bill reducing funding for schools, now before Parliament. It worsening pupil-teacher would allow the Funding ratios and massively increas Agency for Schools — the ing class sizes." quango which supervises the self-governing sector — to pay start-up grants to the promot-ers of grant maintained schools and recoup them from

Gillian Shephard, the Edu-not work then and it will not cation and Employment Sec-work now."

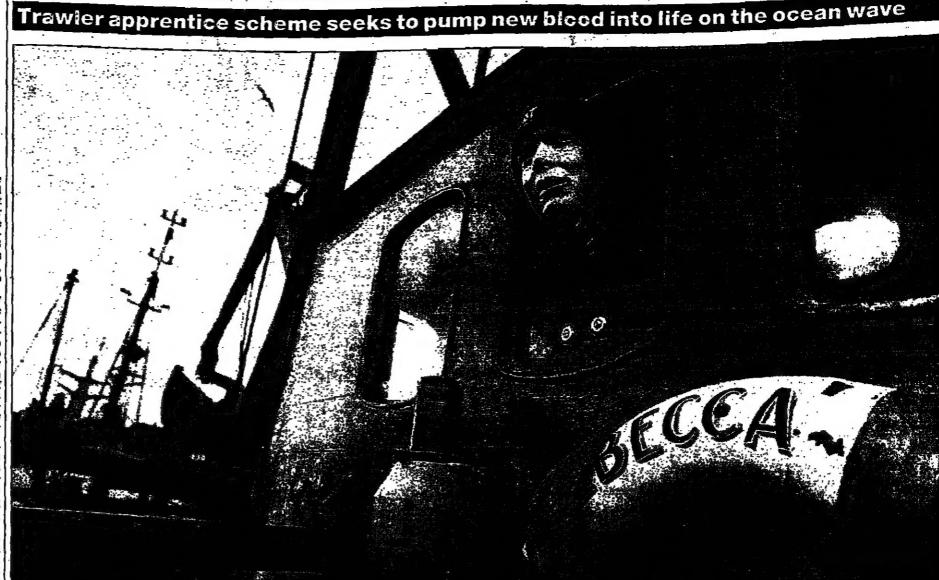
etary, said ministers were looking at how the idea could be developed, but would not elaborate. Eric Forth, her deputy, is understood to have studied a similar scheme during a recent visit to the US where 500 charter schools have been founded since 1991, many in areas which have lacked good schools.

David Blunkett, the shadow education secretary, said the plan resembled the Government's failed initiative to atment's falled initiative to attract business sponsorship for city technology colleges to compete with local authority schools. "This appears to be in complete contradiction of what the Tories have been doing during 18 years of closing inner city and village schools in the name of elimi-

ing mner city and village schools in the name of eliminating surplus places.

"Having failed with previous attempts to divide the education system, they are now desperate to divert attention from their own failure in

Doug McAvoy, general sec-retary of the National Union of Teachers, said the proposal for businesses to support schools was "a step back into the 18th century which did



James Spark in the wheelhouse of a Whitby trawler yesterday. Below, another apprentice, Clive Hall, gets some tips on knots from his father, William

Savings rates

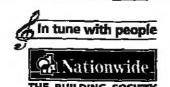
at Nationwide.

FROM 1ST JANUARY 1997

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£1,000 - 54,999 £5,000 - £9,999 £10,000 - £24,999 £15,000 - £49,999 £50,000+	4.00% 4.30% 4.50% 4.50% 5.10%	3.20% 3.44% 3.60% 3.84% 4.08%	£5,000 - £9,599 £10,000 - £24,999 £25,000 - £49,599 £50,000 - £59,999 - £100,000+	5.15% 5.45% 5.80% 6.15% 6.50%		4.129 4.369 4.669 4.929 5.209
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& Linked Bood	13,000-19,000	4.50%	5.20%	Incumations.	£1,000 - £9,377	4.10% 5.10%	3,289
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Mostaly / Paul-Scally	£10,000 - £24,9 99 £25,000 +	4.20%	3.20% 3.36% 3.60%	Bount 90	£200 - £3,979 £10,000 - £19,979 £20,000 +	4.00% 4.50% 4.80%	3.60% 3.84%
				Subscription Stare	£1 - £200 per meach (or £400 joint)	6.50%	5.307



DRITAIN'S first appren-ticeship in sea fishing since the vanished heyday of Atlantic trawlers was launched yesterday, as snow flurries drifted across a heavy swell at Whitby harbour on the North Sea coast, writes Martin Wainwright.

Walturight.

Eight beensgers began a three-year training course leading to a skipper's certificate in a project designed to counter the prevailing image of fishing as a dying trade.

"I hope to be the youngest skipper in the country," said 16-year-old

country," said 16-year-old James Spark, one of the successful applicants to the scheme, launched by Whitby trawlermen and the Yorkshire and Humber Boots twining accordation. Ports training association. getting his knuckles dislo-The course is part-funded cated on a trial run at sea by North Yorkshire train-

ing and enterprise council, but the port's fleet has also invested directly. "Our business alone has invested £1 million in boats

this year, but the industry has such a negative image could not get new recruits," said Arnold Looker, who tuns seven trawlers out of Whitby. "Captains of fishing vessels have a very different job from even 10 years ago -it's all computers and satel-

it's all computers and satellite navigation systems and we need really qualified people to run the boats."

James's mother, Judith Spark, said: "He got nine GCSEs, so he could have gone on to college. But he hates being shut in. He's really stuck on it — even setting his knuckles dislo-



Millennium plea by Bottomley

MHE National Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, yesterday invited Britons to contribute their own ideas for celebrat-

ing the millennium. Mrs Bottomley, chairman of the Millennium Commission called on businesses and civic organisations to come together in an attempt to ensure that the festival empowers communities and reflects the country's religious, ethnic and cultural diversity.

consultation document for the Millennium Festival.

"Many of the headlines have been focused on the exhibition at Greenwich, but the whole pation will be involved in this event. We want it to be based on people's own ideas, and we want to reflect the religious, cultural and ethnic diversity of the

country," she said.
A budget of 220 million is being made available for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland. and nine English regions to

nium Exhibition in Greenwich, south east London.

"We are sending out a challenge to a wide range of organisations, from charities to businesses, to work in partnership to produce a high quality programme of activity to reach the widest possible audience." Mrs Bottomley

The activities which the commission might encourage include those "which the pub-lic will enjoy and feel are worthwhile; will bring com-to the commission by Febru-"The clock is now ticking - celebrate the year 2000. The | munities together, while | ary 21.

both educational and entertaining, and engage as many

people as possible in actively celebrating the millennium". A spokeswoman for the Millennium Commission said: "It was always part of the plan that the events should be as inclusive as possible. Now we are getting the ball rolling with a request for initial ideas from church groups, local authorities, community centres and individuals."

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Del Boy gathers in the TV millions

EL Boy and Rodney Trotter headed into the sunset at the end of Only Fools and Horses and clocked up the year's highest

The hour-long BBC1 Sunday night special — one of three new episodes shown over Christmas — was watched by 21.5 million, ac-cording to unofficial figures. In the last half-hour the audience peaked at 22.1 million, more than 71 per cent of all viewers, and the end of the show brought the National Grid's biggest power surge of the year — 1,600 megawatts — the official viewing figures willions with he battle on as millions put the kettle on. The Christmas Day edition. was watched by 18.7 million

and the second instalment on Friday attracted 18.45 million.

The previous highest audiences in Only Fools and Horses' 15-year history were 20.1 million for Christmas Eve until December 29, ing Day. One Foot in the Grave, the most popular non-Surject John Sullivan and Stars Dayid Jason and Nicholas Layd Jas las Lyndhurst were per-suaded last year by the BBC to make the swansong three-

parter. It ended with Del Boy fulfilling his lifetime's ambition of becoming a millionaire after finding a 26 million watch in his garage.

A BBC spokeswoman said:
"We are delighted it proved a

ures, to be released next week, will include videorecordings and could further boost the show's audience.

arms and advice on the chore

dancies at BBC News Resources has also been con-

firmed with the loss of 132

ography of fight sequences. The first tranche of redun-

BBC exterminates creators of Doctor Who theme tune

THE unit which composed the theme tune for Doctor Who is one of the latest casualties of BBC cost-cutting posts, including studio and which will result in more gallery staff.

han 200 job losses. A spokesman for BBC Four posts are to go at the Resources said: "Nobody BBC Radiophonics Workshop, likes cutting jobs, but we canwhich will withdraw from its not ask the licence fee payer role in music composition but to continue to subsidise loss continue its audio restoration making activities which are available from the freelance

BBC Resources is axing its | market." props department six weeks Rod Lynch, chief executive after pulling out of costume of BBC Resources, which has and make-up design, with the loss of more than 60 jobs. The 12,500 to fewer than 7,000 in posts include the BBC's ar-moury, which was able to pro-torate to become a wholly vide programmes with fire owned subsidiary.

NOTICE TO HALIFAX BORROWERS.

The variable base rate for Halifax Building Society mortgage accounts (but not secured personal loan accounts) will be increased by 0.26%p.a. to 7.25%p.a.

The new interest rate will take effect on:

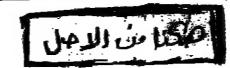
• 1st January 1997 for borrowers subject to immediate notice of increase in the interest rate.

• 1st February 1997 for borrowers subject to one month's notice of increase in the interest rate.

the dates we specify for other borrowers.

Under the terms of Budget Plan the monthly payment will be amended from April 1997 or from the next review date for mortgage accounts on Annual Review.





Shadow home secretary assesses the damage resulting from 'reactionary voting' and pulls a few skeletons out of noble cupboards

Straw lays into hereditary peers

OHN Major's vision of the classless society is underpinned by a hard core of Eton-and-Oxbridge hereditary peers whose cru-cial votes in the House of Lords stem from ancestors who bribed, stole, slept and betrayed their way into royal favour, Labour's Jack Straw

declared yesterday. In a fresh assault upon the hereditary aristocracy, which could — in theory — be abolished by next New Year's Day, the shadow home secretary accused backwoods peers, who rarely attend the upper house, of helping to save the Government from defeat in 66 of the 96 Lords div-96. Ten votes were lost.

Two lords attending — sometimes

Montague Douglas Scott, 9th Duke of Buccleuch (right): born 1923. Educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford. Owner of £400 million worth of property and land in Scotland, First title dating from 1619 when ancestor, Sir Walter Scott, "organised a campaign of terror against the English borders". Dukedom awarded in 1663. Farmer and philanthropist, voted once last year, with the

the vital difference. Mr Straw



But in addition to detailing also got personal. Stung by tative of the "common man" | Eton. Some 163 went to occasions when the votes of the recent claim by Lord than professional politicians, some 320 hereditary peers Cranborne, Leader of the who take the Tory whip made | Lords, that amateur peers are | known Tory peers (some do Agricultural College at Cirentella College Lords, that amateur peers are known Tory peers (some do increasingly more represended not take the whip) went to

Oxford or Cambridge, he said, and 23 more went to the Royal cester. Only three are women.

with the Government...

orge Miles Hobart-

Hampden, 10th Earl of Buckinghamshire: boxn

College and Exeter University. Descended from

Sir Henry Hobart, Baronet (created 1611), aide to

Battle of the Boyne in 1690. Killed in a duel. Eldest son

raised to peerage. 10th earl a City businessman, voted

twice in 1995/96, both times

William of Orange at the

1944. Educated Clifton

hereditary peers brace them-selves for a Labour election victory, and, sooner or later, a short bill to end their voting rights. Only this week a six-point defence plan was of-fered by the rightwing columtightening up on attendance, extra hereditary peers in the Cabinet, and the demand that a Blair government submit its imited Lords reform package

to a referendum Also in the Heffer plan, pub-lished by the Centre for Pol-icy Studies, is a "generous offer" of extra life peers to Labour before the election and a demand that Tory ministers like John Major, who defend the hereditary Lords, have the guts to create a few more of them — only two have been created since 1970. As the Tory chairman, day one of the family "mar cause of the Brian Mawhimey, moved in ried the bastard son of tary peers.

The latest assault comes as | to denounce the shadow home | Charles II" in 1663. Lord Vessecretary for touching "new tey's family rise was also condepths of negative campaigntroversial. Mr Straw says the ing with his highly personal-ised attacks", Mr Straw went first baron was "reviled as little better than a traitor" after further. He singled out a he refused to pay taxes in clutch of peers with ancestral World War I and then paid circumstances worthy of tab-£20,000 for his title in 1922. loid investigation Behind this and other CVs

> the Hamilton ancestors of the 5th Duke of Abercorn (who accused of "gaining their first Scottish peerage after Sir James Hamilton joined, then betrayed, the Douglas revolt of 1455" against the Crown.
>
> As for the Duke of Buccleuch, who voted once in
> 1995/96 (for the Government), private landowner stems

First to be arraigned were

political satire", but helped to save Mrs Thatcher's poll-tax bill and other reactionary legislation. It is a hypersensitive charge for Lord Cranborne's supporters, who claim the peers routinely amend bad legislation without favour to either side. Yet the widely condemned abolition of social security benefits for asylum raids against the English, for-tified with a dukedom on the day one of the family "mar-cause of the votes of heredi-

produced by Mr Straw is a de-

termination to show that

backwoodsmen are "not just



Paramedics working in the first aid post at Cream nightclub in Liverpool, where patrons are taken for treatment for injuries or signs of distress Club confronts drug abuse with first aid services

Nick Varley visits Cream, in Liverpool, which is helping patrons face up to their problems

| tion to confront the health police and health authorities have welcomed such openness and efforts to address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities have welcomed such openness and efforts to address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities at matches as do other such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities at matches as do other such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities at matches as do other such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities at matches as do other such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities at matches as do other such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities at matches as do other such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities at matches as do other such address reality. | can be address reality and contains a contain the matches as do other such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities at matches as do other such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities at matches as do other such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities at matches as do other such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities at matches as do other such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities at matches as do other such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities have welcomed such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities have welcomed such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities have welcomed such address reality. | cent or so, says Mr Young to provide first aid facilities have address

clubbers will tonight see in 1997 on one of the biggest party nights of the year. None will be safer than those at Cream in Liverpool.

The "superclub" has expanded its services beyond playing records and producing albums, into health care, becoming the first venue in England to open a first aid room to improve

Paramedics deal with clubbers suffering from

ENS of thousands of | everything from gashed fingers to the effects of excess drinking and occasional drug misuse. Another pat-rols the dance floors in tandem with stewards, and refers any of the 1,800 cus-

tomers looking the worse for wear to the first aid Club general manager Clare Lambe said: "It is a condition that if they want have to have a check-up."

patching them up and push-ing them back into the fray," Ms Lambe said. "It's far more long term than that. If someone needs to wake up and face what they are doing to themselves, we try to encourage them. "If someone has a prob-

lem we are not going to throw them out, pretend they are nothing to do with us and hope someone else will deal with them, which

does happen."
The policy means the club
is admitting that clubbers do take drugs, but the

address reality.
There are leaflets in the club about the conse-

quences of drug use, and one of the first aid room's main roles is counselling.
Jeff Young, head of the four-strong team on duty tonight, said: "We are quite happy to talk to them in a non-judgmental way about the effects of the substances they might have taken. The fact we do not condemn them means they are pre-

pared to listen to what we have to say." But drugs-related work is only a tiny fraction — 5 per caseload. Most patients are suffering cuts from trying to pick glass from their shoes, the effects of alcohol or medical conditions such

For Ms Lambe, an ex-nurse, the initiative is all about the club scene becom ing more responsible. "An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure. This is We are living in the real world." Mr Young, a veteran of

as asthma.

similar medical measures taken in Scotland after a spate of deaths in clubs, added: "Football clubs have

leisure facilities. I think the time has come for club owners to be counted — like they have at Cream and say they care about what happens to their

"The last thing I, and many others, want to see is places closed because the Government doesn't think they are safe and then the whole scene being driven underground again."

News in brief

Wife 'burned on funeral pyre'

A BUSINESSMAN who killed himself in front of armed police officers probably burned his wife on a funeral pyre, police said yesterday after forensic experts found fragments of human bone on burnt ground at the couple's West Yeo Moor farm at Witheridge, near Tiverton, in Devon.

Detectives are trying to establish whether the fragments match those found in the boot of the car in which Derek Levon. 61, shot himself in the head with a shotgun last Friday after he had told police negotiators that his wife, Polly, was in the car. Detective Chief Inspector Chris Boarland said that a large amount of wood had been used in the fire which would be sufficient "for a funeral pyre". "Whilst our enquiries are steadily coming towards the conclusion that she [Mrs Levon] is no longer alive, we have not come to any final conclusions." DCI Boarland said that the police were still unsure whether they were dealing with a suicide pact, or a suicide and a murder. The couple had cancelled a trip to see their daughters, Alison and Elaine, in Cyprus on December 21. The daughters are expected to return to Britain shortly.

Theory before practice

LEARNERS will have to pass the theory element of the driving examination before being allowed to stithe practical test under new rules to be introduced tomorrow. Since theory testing was introduced in July, the Driving Standards Agency has allowed learners to choose the order in which they sit the tests as an

introductory measure Candidates will now have two years in which to sit the practical test after they have passed the theory. Those who have already sat the practical test will have six months to take the theory test. Theory tests for lorry and bus drivers will be introduced tomorrow. — Shart Millar

Baby's mother found

THE MOTHER of a baby abandoned in sub-zero temperatures in Whickham, Gateahead, has been found by Northumbria police. A spokesman Gordon Chester said: "She is yet to be interviewed to establish the exact circumstances which led to the baby being abandoned." Last night the baby, named Molly by parademics, was said to be "progressing well" at Queen Elizabeth bospital.

The baby, wrapped only in sheets, was on the verge of hypothermia when the was found by a ponenty. Derrow Shung. 12 mia when she was found by a paperboy, Darren Simms, 13. Darren father, Doug, said: "I just hope now that Molly's life gets

Praise for baroness

LABOUR'S chief whip in the Lords, Lord Graham, yesterday praised Baroness Birk, a spokeswoman in the Lords with 22 years of unbroken service as government whip, minister and front-bencher, who died on Monday night after a short illness at the age of 77. He described her as "very warm, very political and absolutely devoted to the Labour Party".

Though Baroness Birk recently handed over the post of leading spokesperson on national heritage to Lord Donoughue, she was still the principal spokesperson on broadcasting in the Lords. Raised to the peerage as Baroness Birk of Regent's Park, she was a government whip in the February-to-October 1974 Labour government and then became a junior environment minister. She became Minister of State in the Privy Council office just beforethe 1979 election. As Alma Birk, she founded the mid-market Nova. magazine and also stood unsuccessfully three times for Parlia-ment. Ohituary, page 10

Oasis prove they are no mere mirage in Radio One listeners' poll

Alex Bellos

AND after alt ... it's Won-derwall. Oasis's anthem has been voted best tune of all time by Radio One listeners. The poll confirms the Man chester band's dominance of the pop world - they had six other entries in the top 100, with Live Forever at number four and Champagne Super-

nova, which has never even

been released as a single, at

1996

1 Oasis: Wonderwall 3 Prodigy: Firestarter 4 Oasis: Forever 5 Underworld: Born Slippy 6 Pulp: Common People Queen: Bohemian Supernova 9 Take That: Back For Good

The results also show how

Radio One's audience has changed almost out of recog-

nition since the last greatest hits poll in 1992. Then

Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody



Liam Gallagher: top tune

John Lennon, The Beatles, Meatloaf and Bryan Adams. But now, Bohemian Rhaphits poll in 1992. Then sody, at number seven, is the Like Teen Spirit by Nirvana. Ashdown's preferred theme Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody only pre-1990 song in the top Apart from Nirvana, all the at this year's Liberal Demowas top, followed by a bevvy 25. The Beatles have two in top 15 records are from Brit-crat conference, is in at 96.

1992 I Queen: Bohemian Rhapsody 2 Led Zeppelin: Stairway to

3 Bryan Adams: Everything 1 4 John Lennon: Imagine 5 Gerry Rafferty: Baker Stree 6 Derek and the Dominoes: 7 George Michael: Careless

Whisper 8 10CC: I'm Not In Love 9 The Beatles: Bey Jude 10 Mestioaf: Bat Out Of Hell

of old-generation rockers like | the top 100: Hey Jude at 38, and I Am The Walrus at 63. Highest climber — from number 81 to 2 — is Smells

ish artists. Dance music is band The Prodigy are third with Firestarter and 11th with Breathe, and Under-world are at number five with Born Slippy. Only 12 songs appear in

both polls. They include John Lennon's Imagine at 33 (fourthin 1992) and Bat Out Of Hell by Meatloaf at 90 (10). vited to vote by phone. A spokeswoman said 11,000 controversy involving Radio 4's Personality of the Year, it is not thought that its sister station's poll was similarly sabotaged — although new Tory recruits the Spice Girls are at 10 and M People's Search For The Hero, Paddy

Man who jumped on altar in cathedral rampage is found unfit to plead

dral yesterday told magistrates how they struggled to control a man who went on the rampage during an early

Noel O'Connor, unemployed, leapt on to the altar at teer warden, the courf heard, the Roman Catholic cathe. Father Charles McMahon.

ground and causing damage put at £5,000, Horseferry Road magistrates were told.

As the 29-year-old tried to escape, he punched a worshipper and an elderly volunteer warden, the court heard. Father Charles McMahon. shipper and an elderly volun-

man as he entered the cathe-dral. "As soon as I saw him I felt something was wrong,"

O'Connor, of no fixed address, faces two charges of assault and charges of mak-ing threats to kill, criminal

WORSHIPPERS and staff dral, knocking a 6ft crucifix who was attending the sam sticks were waved to the Afzal, prosecuting applied for at Westminster Cathe and candlesticks to the mass on December 17, saw the floor."

Afzal, prosecuting applied for him to be detained at a mental institution. damage, affray and possess-ing an offensive weapon. He has been ruled untit to

Stipendiary magistrate

Howard Riddle ruled that he accepted the prosecution case and adjourned the hearing until today, when O'Connor will be dealt with in the presplead or stand trial and Nazir | ence of psychiatric doctors.

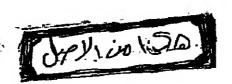
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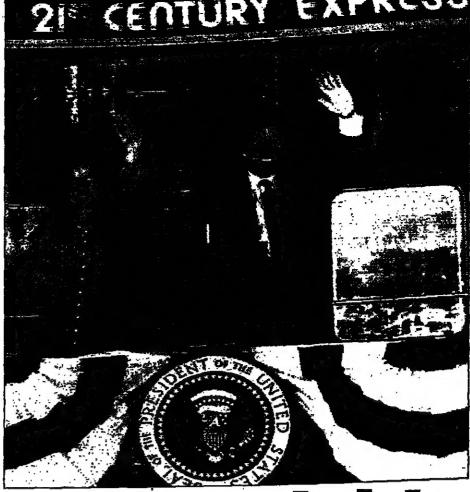
Lloyd, Sank Plc, PO. Soc. 112, Concur House, Canona Way, Science 2009 71.B.



ides







On the campaign trail, left, Boris Yeltsin allayed the fears of voters by showing he still had plenty of energy and rhythm but paid the price after his re-election in the summer. Centre, his daughter gave him a hug during a photocall after his recovery from a multiple heart bypass operation. Right, Bill Clinton used the 21st century express to take him across America and keep the media interested in the Democratic convention

Great survivors weigh up their debts

YELTSIN/Russia's leader is in hock seats, will become more inde-pendent of the Kremlin and thus harder for the president to Lebed, his doctors and state workers, writes **David Hearst**

report yesterday, claiming credit for ending the war in Chechenia, and promising to do better

The president said of the peace deal: "The course for peace often suffers heavy blows. But I will pursue it un-waveringly. This is the course of the president."

The agreement was negoti-ated by General Alexander Lebed, the man Mr Yeltsin dismissed, who has now be-come Russia's most popular

Mr Yeltsin continued, in an interview with three Russian news agencies: "Now I am ready to tackle the most complicated problems facing Russia . . . I should make up for

Mr Yeltsin was away from his desk for more than six months this year, and some real porkers were told about ofter suffering a heart attack, Mr Yeltsin emerged to cast his vote in the second round of elections on July 3 at his sanatorium in Barvikha, when crowds of journalists were lined up to film his centre polling station in Osen-

The only explanation given for this switch in venue was broadcast on the radio: "Like many Moscovites, Boris Niko-layevich cast his vote outside the city this year.

After he curtailed his inauguration caremony on August 9. rumours began to grow about the severity of the pres-ident's ill health.

To counter these, Mr Yelt-sin was reported to have a Yelisin signed a new decree "strong bandshake", to be sending 17,000 university new governors will take their

in Brezhnev's old hunting lodge in Zavidovo just before the visit of the German chan-

The truth about the gravity his heart condition was revealed only in late September, by the surgeon who was to operate on him, Dr Renat Akchurin

The president performed badly when it came to fulfill-ing his election promises, the chief of which was to end the wage arrears to public sector workers within a month of starting his election campalen in Febuary.

'Unpaid wages were cited as the most significant event in 1996, not the end of war

stood at 46 trillion roubles (£4.95 billion) in unpaid back wages and pensions. So it was unpaid wages, not the ending of the war in Che-

chenia, that was cited by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Centre as the most significant event in 1996. Mr Yeltsin had to issue a decree in August cancelled 18 previous decrees he had signed on the campaign trial promising cash for social programmes and regional aid. As for his promise to end the unpopular army cons-

ORIS YELTSIN scouting in Valdai, 248 miles wrote himself a north-west of Moscow, for a lenient end of term good place to rest, and to have report yesterday. shot "40 ducks and one boar" graduates to fill up the ranks of the army's depleted officer corps. The army itself will get only one third of the budget it needs to conduct the reforms the president has demanded. An opinion poll published yesterday gave Mr Yelstin a

popularity rating of 14 per cent, half of Gen Lebed's rating of 29 per cent.
This appears to confirm the

view that Gen Lebed's dis-missal only boosted his chances of mounting a real challenge for presidency should the president's health

The acid test of the Krem-lin's popularity has been the election of governors in 52 of Russia's 89 regions. Most of the incumbents were men di-

rectly appointed by the presidential administration.

In the 41 regions where a result has been declared, the Communist-led opposition claims to have secured 33 enveclaims to have secured 23 governorships against 16 for Mr Yeltsin. Alexander Kazakov, the deputy head of presidential administration in charge of the elections, says that only eight of the newly elected governors are "unacceptable" to

Neither side is coming clean. The Communists supported many candidates who were independent, like Leonid Gorbyenko, the director of the port in the Russian Bal-tic enclave of Kaliningrad. On the other hand, the Kremlin includes in its list of supporters governors like Gen Lebed's brother Alexei, in Khakassia, who could by no means by called a sup-The safest conclusion to draw is that the upper house

Dozens killed by

This body is important for the president, because it con-trols all attempts to change the constitution, the ultimate guarantor of Mr Yeltsin's

weeping powers.

Mr Yetisin said yesterday:

"I very much hope that they (the new governors) will justify the trust that was put in them. The quickest way to do this is close co-operation [between the governors and the Kremlin]."

But Mr Yelisin does get full marks for tenacity. His first request on recovering conto install five heart bypass grafts was for a pen. This was the full powers of president.

cess in raising imprecedented sums for the campaign trail condemns him to a further round of congressional inves-tigations into his dubious do-nors and associates, and weakens his already scandal-prone administration. But the extraordinary politi ical skill he showed in slow-ing down, and finally delest-



President Clinton holds four-year-old Charles Duval in August after signing a bill to raise the minimum wage

lieved to have been a pan-try car, which may account for the lower casualty fig-

for the lower casualty fig-ures than forecast.

"We heard it from our home, which is seven kilo-metres away," said D. Ma-zumdar, a sub-inspector at the Kokhrajhar police-station. "My wife was screaming when she heard."

No one claimed responsi-

bility, but the authorities in Assam blamed militants

from the Bodo tribe, who

have been fighting for a separate state on their an-cestral lands, Bodoland.

Bodo militants are particularly active in the Kokh-rajhar district. In May they

set fire to more than 100

villages belonging to a dif-ferent tribe, leaving

125,000 people homeless. The attack on the train

follows the blowing up of a bridge on Sunday night, which left the seven north-

eastern states cut off from

the rest of the country. The last six months have

een an escalation in vio-

lence in Assam by the Bodo militants and Assamese

guerrilla groups, who are opposed to each other.

The two splinter groups were formed when their

moderate factions entered

into peace agreements and electoral politics.

The Bodos claim the Assamese, who settled in the

region from the 13th cen-

tury, usurped their tribal lands.

CLINTON/The Comeback Kid owes the Republicans more than he thinks, writes Martin Walker

realigning the Democratic Party into the electable centre of US politics has been

successful.

President Clinton promised to build "a bridge to the zist century", but his construction methods recall President Bisenhower's in the Risenhower reconciled his Republican Party to the New Deal, and Mr Clinton believes

he has a similar historical role to reconcile the Democrais to free markets and free

in the week after the Republi- core principles can convention in San Diego he signed into law three bills each passed with Republican support, which consolidated the new domestic consensus. The first raised the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 an hour, a long-standing Dem-

few had predicted he would persuade the Republicans to back. The second was the Kenne-dy-Kasebaum health insurance bill, which, although it was not his initial, grander plan of a national health inurance system, does ensure that any worker who changes

or loses his job will keep his health insurance.
The third was the welfare reform bill, which ended the

a high price for ensuring his presidential re-election this year: his suc

ers and children. Instead, welfare is limited to two years at a time, and to maximum of five years in any lifetime. It also requires proof of a readiness to work its administration was en-trusted to the individual states, a significant diminu-

tion of federal power.

The principle behind the new domestic consensus was to make a sharp, almost Vic-torian, distinction between the deserving and undeserv-The deserving poor were

craits to free markets and free trade, and to win their approvation a modernisation of the New Deal'system of well-faint and the New Deal'system of well-faint and the New Deal of Comes close to dismanting its core principles. Indeed, President Chinium's shift from the New Beal to a leaser and meaner model of government was endorsed by both parties in mid-campaign. The week after the Republication of the principles. His historical role

> prepared to work.
>
> The glorification of work has always underscored the Clinton project. His earlier legislative achievements included the Family Leave Act, which requires employers to give workers time off to care or a sick dependant, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. which effectively abolished income tax for families on less than average wages: a reform which he claimed benefited 27 million working dency stems from the gen-erosity of Asian and Asian-Americans.

Mr Clinton was re-elected in part because he faced a fee-ble opponent in former Senator Bob Dole, but also because

he returned to the centrist ground on which he was elected in 1992. In 1996, as in 1992, he was tough on crime, resolved "to end welfare as we know it". and promised middle-class

tax cuts and a shrunken federal government.
He managed to develop a bipartisan foreign policy, despite the daunting political
risk of deploying American
troops to enforce a US-brokered peace in the Balkans. He was also tough on the United Nations, forcing the

secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghall, to retire. And despite sending aircraft carriers after China bullied Taiwan, he agreed with Republicans that US commercial interests in China outweighed

human rights concerns.

The main legacy of his first-term, passed with Republican votes, was the repacement of the bipartisan foreign policy which had put the US at the head of a global military co-alition since the end of the second world war with a commercial strategy which made the US the linchpin and guar-anter of a free-trading global

economy.
Immediately after his re-election, Mr Clinton flew to Manila for the annual Asia-Pacific economic summit, at signed to establish free trade in information technology over the next three years. His economic policy

thrived last year as the stock market boomed and the US scored the best economic perof Seven countries But his second term may be doomed to an economic slow-

down, if not recession, in both the US and Asia, which is watching nervously for China's takeover of Hong scandal of campaign finances which is besetting his presi-

American donors who sought

to reward his free-trade

eturner

"ark Ko

Strikers bring Israel to a halt

Jessica Berry in Jerusalem

SRAEL was at a standstill yesterday on the fourth day of strikes which have brought the country to its knees and left thousands of tourists stranded at the airport over the weekend.

More than 250,000 workers More than 250,000 workers abandoned their posts in pro-test against the budget cuts proposed by the prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu. Labour leaders say they will lead to widespread redundancies and salary cuts.

The government proposes to cut spending by \$2.15 billion (£1.34 billion) to stop its deficits rising. The current account deficit stands at

Industry and government which affected most of the public sector — banks, the stock exchange, the telephone company, transport, emergency services, post offices and scaports — were costing the economy tens of millions

Mr Netanyahu lashed out at the Histadrut trade union federation, accusing it of waging a political battle against his unpopular government. He said the strike was "blatantly

Officials said the strikes were also a protest against Is-rael's decision to reinstate fi-night tonight to get his budget nancial incentives to settlers | approved by parliament.

Indian train bomb living in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, The Labour Party opposition has estimated that the subsidies will cost taxpay-

ers \$300 million a year. The Histadrut chairman, Amir Peretz, said: "The work-ers alone will be forced to pay the price ... for the govern-ment's big exercise in fraud. Next year the salary of every worker will be eroded by 2,500 to 3,000 shekels [about £500 to

£600]."
The unions launched the strikes on Thursday, They are due to culminate today in general strike as the Knesset votes on next year's

budget. On Sunday the Histadrut trade union department chairman, Schlomo Shani, was arrested for five hours for contempt of court in violating an order to limit the stoppages at ports and railways to three hours. As he was detained Mr Per-

sectors of the economy to walk out. Most air departures were stopped and baggage handlers refused to work. Radio and television stations stopped

etz ordered employees in all

broadcasting.
The finance minister, Dan Meridor, told the Histadrut it had "violated every rule posspolitical, irresponsible and thie ... even protest must utterly without any grounds have a reason and some rules or we will all sink into unredeemable anarchy."

in New Delhi

RIBAL militants were suspected of detonat-ing twin explosions which struck a crowded assenger train in the Indian tes-plantation state of Assam last night. The blast could be heard four miles

Indian news agencies hatt the largest town in the extreme north-eastern state, as saying that they feared up to 300 passengers on the Delhi-bound Brabmapuira Mail could have been killed.

But the police control room at Kokhrajar, the nearest town to the blast site at Chechamukh, said 18 bodies had been recovered by midnight local time, and 68 injured had been taken to hospital.
Although darkness and thick jungle were delaying rescue efforts, police scaled

down their estimates of the death toll early today. The Brahmaputra Mail pulled out of the station minutes before the blast, at 7.15pm local time. Police in Kokhrajhar said the engine and the first carriage passed safely over the device on the track. The next three cars were devastated.

In all, five carriages were One of the carriages is be-

News in brief

Falklands 'shared sovereignty' rejected

day that Argentina and Brit-ain should "share" sover-eignty of the disputed Falkland Islands. Britain rejected the offer.

The proposal was a result of "[diplomatic] strategies changing with time", Mr m said in La Rioja, his

Menem said in La Rioja, his home province.

"I still hope that in the year 2000 we'll see the Argentine flag flying in the islands, either by itself or alongside other flags," Mr Menem said. "If the Argentine flag flies alongside the British flag, that would be a step forward,"

Hair-eating

which safety experts say

"It ought to be recalled," a product liability lawyer, Ed-ward Swartz, said. "Kids are

going to experiment with that

toy and entanglement inju-ries are being reported."

At least seven girls have caught their hair in the Cab-

bage Patch Snack Time Kid, thousands of which were sold

over Christmas. - Reuter.

posed a danger to children.

dolls alert

little girls' hair.

the year 2000, has proposed toint sovereignty. Argentina's claim over the islands is enshrined in the constitution. A Foreign Office spokes-woman rejected the sugges-tion. "We have no doubt of our sovereignty of the Falk-land islands," she said. "We are not prepared to dis-

Almost 1,000 servicementied in the 1982 Falklands

PRESIDENT Carlos Menem | he added. It was the first time | archipelago from Argentine of Argentina said yester- that Mr Meneta, who has invaders. that Mr Menem, who has vowed to regain the islands through diplomatic means by The Argentine foreign min-ister, Guldo Di Tella, said earlier this month that the government must change its since there was no solution sight. Relations between the two

countries were restored in 1990 when their governments agreed to set aside the issue of sovereignty.

Last year the two countries agreed to explore for oil and died in the 1982 Falklands gas near the Falklands. They war when British troops are still trying to reach agreeretook the South Atlantic ment on fishing rights.—AP.

Rwanda puts Hutu officials on trial for role in 1994 massacre

NITED STATES safety officials were investigating a rash of incidents yesterday in which battery-operated Cabbage Patch dolls were to organise the Hutu civilian reported to have chewed up milities responsible for the massacre in Kigali of thou-sands of Tutsis and moderate The Consumer Product Safety Commission is to issue Hutus 30 months ago. a statement about the dolls,

The trial of Silas Munyagishali, a former deputy prosecutor in the capital, was im-mediately adjourned to be heard by a special tribunal in Giterama prefecture, because the law forbids his prosecution in the court where he was once a prosecuter.
Theodormir Ruzirahwoba. a former local official, also

A FORMER Hutu state pros-acutor appeared in court in the Rwandan capital Kigali yesterday accused of belong yesterday accused of belong and 1993, before the 90-day genocide which began in April 1994.

They have both pleaded not guilty. Prosecutors have asked for the death penalty. Their trials were moved to Kigali from the southeastern town of Kibungo, where on Friday two other men became the first to stand trial in

The deputy justice minis-ter, Gerald Gahima, said yester, Geram Gamma, sam yes-terday that he expected up to six people to stand trial in Kigali this week, including appeared before the Kigali Froduald Karamira, the highcourt yesterday, accused of est-ranking genocide suspect organising Hutu militias in in Rwandan custody.—AP.

FBI agent denies spying

Earl Pitts, an FBI agent, de-nied in Alexandria, Virginia, selling secrets to Moscow for more than \$224,000 (£140,000). A trial was set for April 21. Arrested on December 18, Mr Pitts, 13 years in the FBI, is the only the second FBI agent charged with spying.
The FBI alleges that he took
money from the Russians be-

tween 1987 and 1992. - AP. Hostage impasse

Yemen said it would not use force while negotiations continued to free five Polish tourists held hostage by tribesmen in the mountain-ous interior, Poland's ambas-sador to Yemen said yesterday. - Reuter.

Crash victims

Two commuter trains ran into each other in a valley outside Brescia, Italy, yester-day, killing three people and injuring 16.—AP.

Trapped in tunnel Up to 300 people remained trapped by avalanches in a tunnel in the Caucasus mountains yesterday. It will take at least two more days to rescue them, the Russian emergen-

cies ministry said. — Reuter. Homes takeover

China has taken back 787 oversized houses occupied by officers of the Beijing military region and punished 17 people in an attempt to root out dishonesty in the military, the People's Liberation Army Dally newspaper said yester-

Hun Sen's largesse hides a bitter split

The co-prime minister's speech to Pol Pot | taking businessmen with him defectors contrasts with his former violent rhetoric Nick Cumming-Bruce reports from Phnom Dey, Cambodia

HE KILLING and terror which has dogged Cambodia for much of the past 20 years seemed to be slipping fast into history as the coprime minister Hun Sen stood up to address the crowd assembled in the old Khmer Rouge stronghold of Phnom Dey.

gations of plotting to kill Hun Sen's accusation was widely seen as invention, aimed at eliminating a political competitor, and his party now wants him back.

Prince Ranariddh has applied to the King for amnesty and Prince Sirivudh has announced his determination to

Arrayed before him were 800 former Pol Pot soldiers, their frozen, suspicious stares offset by uniforms which con-firmed their defection to the regime in Phnom Penh. Seated behind was Ny Korn, one of the most senior of Pol Pot's commanders to fall into government hands. But if Hun Sen had come to

Phnom Dey to bury one con-flict, his presence was partly the product of a bitter new feud, this time with the other co-prime minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh. The ac-cusations of assassination plots which generals loyal to one leader this week levelled at those supporting the other revealed how far the leaders' rivalry has now split the

Khmer Rouge brutality found no place in Hun Sen's speech to "my relatives, my compatriots," in which he praised their courage in

They had asked for 16 schools, he noted; he would give them 16 schools. They wanted roads; army engi-neers would build them.

After the speeches, he was off in a convoy of pickup trucks bouncing up dirt roads to the hospital, peering at ma-laria patients and pressing envelopes with a little useful cash in the hands of each. To the director went a wad of

hundred dollar notes. His relaxed style and win-ning largesse help explain why Hun Sen is respected even by rivals as one of Cam-bodia's most effective politi-cians. But his performance contrasted starkly with the violent rhetoric that only days earlier be fired at Prince Ranariddh and his followers in the royalist party,

ment is handing out amnesty to such Khmer Rouge figures as Ieng Sary, once sentenced to death for his part in Pol Pot's genocidal terror, Fun-cinpec leaders are seaking an

But Hum Sen apparently will have none of it. Any aircraft carrying the Prince to Cambodia would be shot down, he warned this month.
Friends and enemies judge Hun Sen's resort to threats and intimidation in Prince Sirivudh's case as a calcu-lated preparation for the elec-tions in 1998. Hun Sen and the CPP ruled Cambodia before UN-run elections three years ago and make no secret of their determination to

These people have been in power since 1979 and will light tooth and claw for their jobs," a Western analyst said. "Violence will certainly be

emerge all powerful from the

Relations between the two co-prime ministers have already deteriorated to a point where they barely communicate. The council of ministers has met three or four times in

the past nine months.
Funcinpec, casting around for political allies, is now moving towards an electoral alliance with smaller political parties and feverishly courting defecting Khmer Rouge commanders with whom the party was once allied in an coalition against the CPP. Funcinpec's frustration and

humiliation at the hands of the CPP have already boiled over into armed confrontstion once this month, when royalist troops in Battambang fired B-40 rockets at troops loyal to CPP. If confrontation erupts, the north-west may once again serve as Funcin-pec's fall-back position.

This is a very dangerous situation," a CPP insider said, adding that both sides were preparing contingency "Government by the state is

over. It's not politicians in control any more, it's the military commanders controlling

cinpec leaders are seaking an immesty for Prince Norodom Sirivadh.

The half-brother of King Sihanouk was forced into exile early this year to escape alle-

to woo the locals.
In a few days' time he will

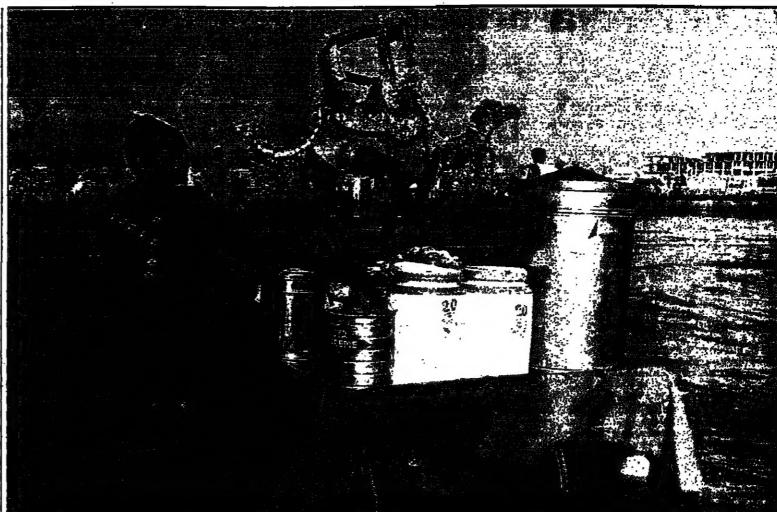
In a few days' time he will by to another key defectors' base. Some 90 per cent of Khmer Rouge defectors now support him, he claims.

If that figure seems absurdly high, it is partly because Hun Sen also attracts strong misgivings in his own party. Many do not appreciate his aggressive style and some his aggressive style and some have sought to mend ties with

Hun Sen, protected by tanks and a praetorian guard of 500 troops, appears to set his own targets with little regard to his critics. He has toned down his rhetoric against Prince Sixtensials of against Prince Sirivudh, of-fering to buy him a first-class ticket and to greet him at the airport

Few even in his own party seem convinced this is any more than a pause before the next storm.

"It's not yet bloody, it's messy," a Western analyst in Phnom Penh said. "But no It could become a bloody



A beach vendor parks his food stall in the sea at Karachi yesterday to catch customers coming back from a swim

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Returned bodies mark Korea thaw

ORTH KOREAN loudspeakers accused the South of "butchery" as the bodies of 24 northern commandos were handed back across the border at Panmunjom yesterday.
An unprecedented apol-

ogy from Pyongyang on Sunday ended three months of tense argument after the intruders landed on the east coast of South Korea from a disabled mini-submarine. It re-opens the path to economic aid and political dialogue with the Us and South Korea.

dead commandos as "mar-tyrs who fought like heroes" contrasted sharply with the "deep regret" ex-pressed earlier by

with the "deep regret" expressed earlier by Pyongyang.

A voice from a loud-speaker claimed that the soldiers — who were shot on South Korean soil — had been "murdered on a regular training mission". But the apology marks a huge climbdown for the North, which must be masked by proggands.

The whole climbdown to the North, which must be masked by proggands. propaganda.

propaganda.

The whole episode suggests division — or at least confusion — in Pyongyang. where the possible collapse of its "socialist system" has been county alred. been openly aired.

A recent editorial in the official Nodong Sinmun newspaper says that the people are bearing "difficult and heavy burdens", and that the future of activation is now at stake. socialism is now at stake.
Recalling the demise of other socialist countries, it asks: "Which will we choose, heroic life or death? What will we become, independent people ... or slaves?"

The North Korean statement was brokered by the socialism is now at stake.

commitment to "ensure Leader

that such an incident will not recur" and "work with others" for peace on the Korean peninsula. The South Korean presi-

dent, Kim Young-sau, had demanded a direct apology but settled for a form of

words which avoids men-tioning his country.

Mr Kim's tough line on the submarine incident led to disagreement with the US, which sought a compro-mise to restart the Korean

peace process.

The North Korean minirom a disaoled mini-sub-narine. It re-opens the path to economic aid and politi-al dialogue with the US and South Korea.

Yesterday's praise for the load commander as "man."

It amazontly in a man. — 11 apparently in 2 mass suicide — while the rest were hunted down by the

by 1.5 million tons — which would have fed a quarter of

its population.

The North has eased its rigid control of agriculture to tackle a second year of floods and famine. Farmers are now allowed to "freely dispose" of 10 per cent of their harvest if they meet the state target.

the state target.
The apology will also reopen a dialogne aimed at opening talks between the US, China, and the two

This is to bypass the North's refusal to negotiate The North korean statement was brokered by the US state department during talks in New York.

The key provision was statement. directly with the South on

The Guardian

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Measuring the messages

Only Paddy Ashdown strikes a believable note

political party leaders bother to issue new year messages to the nation. Most years these anodyne and uninspiring pronouncements must be as hard work to write as they are to read. They do little to advance anyone's knowledge or understanding of public affairs. It's a fair bet that nobody remembers a word of them by the end of new year's day.

This time, though, it ought to be different. The year which begins tomorrow brings a general election which has been all too long awaited and which the country patently needs as soon as possible. Public statements by leading politicians therefore ought to matter much more than usual, since they will define the debate - if that's the right word which will culminate at the polling booths in a few months time.

How do the 1997 new year me (all of them irritatingly issued in 1996 by the way) measure up to the task and to the needs of the country? Not very well, on any count, John Major's message to the nation asked us to choose between two futures: on the one hand, the uncertain "leap in the dark" with Labour, on the other, the tried and tested "stability and prosperity" of the Conservatives. As chutzpah goes, this takes some beating. No government in recent decades has led the people more recent decades as led the people more recklessly into a leap in the dark than the Conservatives under Margaret Thatcher and Mr Major. The ostentatious and shameless prosperity of the few at the top contrasts with the unmistakeable material and moral degradation of many at the bottom. Furthermore, for the Conservatives to promise stability when they have presided over and to a considerable degree encouraged a society based upon unprecedented instability makes one wonder whether words have not lost their meaning completely.

If it is clear that Britain needs change

NORMALLY it is hard to know why | in 1997, it is by no means clear that it will get the change it needs from the Labour Party. Tony Blair's new year message makes an unanswerable case for the Conservatives to be defeated, but then loses its way when it tries to promise serious and credible alternatives. Mr Blair offers a programme for something which he now dubs "the radical centre" which is heavy on abstractions - new partnership, extended opportunity, modernisation, decentralisation of power, and acting strong in Europe - but weak on effective specifics. It is not surprising that, after two and half years of Mr Blair's leadership, many are beginning to tire of this, and to wonder whether his Labour Party will achieve very much that is worth standing up and cheering for. Labour's position seems to be that all the wrongs of modern Britain — whose existence cannot be disputed - coalesce into a need for strong leadership of the kind which Mr Blair claims to offer. But that's not true. They coalesce into a need for radical measures and themes which will make Britain into a different kind of country. The jury is out on whether that is what Mr Blair really

wants any longer. In this context, the one new year message which strikes a consistently believable note is Paddy Ashdown's. The Liberal Democrat leader doesn't have all the answers either, but at least he speaks words which mean something in sentences which bear some relation to people's experience. He offers policies on education and health unconstrained by the fear of spending more money. Mr Ashdown may not have any chance of being Prime Minister, but his warning against "the least intelligent election ever" rings only too true when one reads the efforts of his rivals — the one unhappily dishonest and unapologetic, the other disturbingly uptight and timid.



Speed saves – at 20 mph

I will save lives, December 27) is a timely reminder that we need to do more to reduce death and injuries on our roads. The vast majority of the 45,000 children killed or injured in road accidents each year were walking or cycling on "quiet" residential roads within a quarter mile of home. Reducing speed limits to 20 mph on residential streets and enforcing those limits could dramatically reduce the num-ber of deaths and injuries to children and young people. Carol Sherriff. Director, Child Accident Prevention Trust. Clerks Court, 18-20 Farringdon Lane,

THE Transport Research Laboratory finding that 20 mph zones cut accidents in-volving children by 67 per cent makes a powerful case for immediate government action. Labour has urged. straightforward stage the Goy-erument should take to extend the benefits of the lower limit beyond the present 200 zones:

make it easier and quicker for local councils to put in 20

London ECIR SAU.

mph zones;
• review the level and cost of traffic-calming measures pres- scene. It is perhaps that very otly required for app 20 mph schemes:

 pilot speed cameras; link 20 mph zones with Safe Routes to School programme. Urgent implementation of these initiatives would save lives, cut the tragic toll of child injuries and make the streets safer for everyone These must be important goals for the New Year — and for a new government if the present one won't act. Andrew Smith MP.

Shadow Transport Secretary. House of Commons, London SWIA GAA

Facts of war

VICTORIA Brittain (Private view, December 28) uses the term genocide to describe

the killings that occurred in

Rwanda in 1993. But although

the event may appear on paper as a genocide, the moti-

vation was not fuelled by eth-

In international law, geno-cide is distinguished by the

ethnic-hatred motivation. In

other African wars, such as the Nigerian, Somali and Bia-

fran wars, there was no la-belled genocide because it would lead to a "malicious disregard of the facts". The

motivation behind the Rwan-

dan massacre was based on a

struggle for political power between the Habyarimans

government and the Rwandan Patriotic Front. Both fought

for survival at the other's ex-pense (not through ethnic passions and hatred) which

passions and hat led to the killings.

17 Cliffe Park, Seaburn, Sunderland SR6 9NS.

Chris Mitchell.

nic hatred or nationalism.

Counting the cost, roughly YOU MAKE an extraordi-narily odd calculation of associations to provide a stock of more than 3,300 new homes for people who have

the amount of help provided by the Government under the Rough Sleepers Initiative (Matters Arising, Society Guardian, 18 December), suggesting that spending amounted to £250,000 per The Initiative began in 1990

when more than 1,000 people were estimated to be sleeping rough in central London on any night. That number is now down to less than 290. Independent research has found that several thousands of people with a history of sleeping rough have been pro-vided with help and long term accommodation under the Initiative during its first six years. The £180 million spent to date has provided support for such people through voluntary sector outreach and resettlement agencies and more than 1,000 hostel places. However, the bulk of the 2 Marsham Street, money has gone to housing London SW1P 3EB.

slept rough.
The Initiative is now in its third phase; it has been expanded in inner London and extended to 12 other areas. By 1999, the Government will have invested over £250 mil-lion to help ensure that there

is no necessity for people to sleep rough. While the number of individuals who sleep rough in England on any night can now be measured in hundreds, sev-eral thousand people have been helped over a number of years under the Initiative since 1990. So if you do your sums again you would arrive at a very different answer, even on the crude basis of your original calculation. David Curry MP.

Department of the

If it ain't got that swing

every night of the week. David Pavett.

have a critic on board to cover the most important mu-sical developments of the last three decades.

licis wrong to call free im-provisation a branch of jazz,

even though most of the origi-nal exponents came from Jazz.

Martin Davidson

BWELL I NOKE UP

A THIS MORNING

21166

10 Grovewood Court,

14 The Grove, Isleworth TW7 4JZ.

ICHARD Williams's ac-count of the alleged death of jazz (Spontane ous combustion, December 28) is likely to prove premature. He seems to share the common prejudice that arrangement is the enemy of

we are invited to mourn over the demise of the all-busking totally spontaneous jazz band. The truth is that such bands rarely produced music of value. Improvisation is a relative term. Worth-while improvisation is based on years of practice in the musical vocabulary of jazz. One of the greatest muscians to emerge from New Orleans was Jelly Roll Morton and there can be little doubt about the high degree of arrange-ment of his music.

ment of his music.

Would it make sense to regret the high degree of composition and arrangement in the work of the great jazz big bands? Or isn't it the case that it was precisely the quality of that composing which extended jazz and provided new opportunities for the inprovising musician? provising musician? Whatever the merits or de-

may be, he is only one part of a very rich contemporary lazz richness which makes it less Martin Davida likely that a few individuals 3 Bittacy Rise, come to have pre-eminent in- London NW7 2HH.

THE DILEMMA which Richard Williams outlines fuential positions, as hap-pened in earlier periods. Jazz is very much alive and can be is not, I believe, too surprising. After the avant-garde move-ment of the sixtles, there was heard in and around London (and no doubt other UK cities) simply nowhere else for jazz to go in terms of forward move-ment. It is only to be expected that today's musicians are revisiting areas which have

already been mapped out.
I suspect that other forms of RICHARD Williams's piece on the death of jazz is spot music face the same dilemma, which may underlie the in-creased cross-fertilisation beon, albeit 25 years late. What he only hints at is that for the last 30 years the adventurousin the last few decades. How-ever, as Williams rightly points out, these are not al-ways the real thing from a jazz ness previously in jazz is now in free improvisation. It is true that this is a minority activity, but this is largely due to its lack of exposure: even the Guardian does not perspective. This is not to say that there

will not continue to be out-standing and original jazz mu-sicians. However, their talent will be within the existing genre, rather than charting any major new horizons. John Blandford. 34 The Drive, Barnet, Herts, EN5 4JQ.

nal exponents came from Jazz.
Many subsequent free improvisers came from the world of composed unless as will be the advent; of recorded sound meant that creature to longer had to resort to notation to YOUR obstuary of Ronnie Scott (December 27) high-lighted his outstanding contri-bution to jezz in this country. preserve their music, and from the desert of rock, which was found to be musically dead at birth. the enormous financial strain of running a jazz club six nights a week for 37 years with no state subsidy

Ronnie Scott's has had almost all the major international jazz players on its stage over the years and given joy to hundreds of thousands of people. A fitting tribute to Ronnie Scott would be to provide a decent subsidy to the chib to ensure its succes future. The Arts Council can surely afford it - this year it gave a 27.9 million grant to the Covent Garden opera company just down the road. Gina Harkell.

27 Connaught Road. London N4 4NT.

No complaints

WORKED as a NHS hospital administrator from 1960 until the start of reorganisation in 1982. During my career I was responsible for the management of 14 hospitals, including Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield. Written and verbal complaints were sufficiently unusual for the details of individ-ual cases to stick in my memory 20 or 30 years later. Often two or three weeks would pass with no complaints

being received.
Last year Chase Farm Hospital received 965 compla safe in whose hands? Don Gardiner. The Coppice, Widford, Ware SG12 SRT.

Threads in the ethnic weave

THE Census question identi-fying ethnic groups (Row over plan for Census race labels, December 9, Letters, December 11, 12) seeks to do two things at once. It achieves neither as well as it might if it addressed them separately.

The ethnic-origin question was introduced to monitor social and economic disadvantage among non-white groups. The Census's primary task, therefore, is to identify people with diverse family origins. This is a question of fact which will not change over an individual's lifetime and which can be handed down from parents to children. The Census needs this information that members of minority groups can be counted, and their circumstances compared

Second, the Census question s trying to ask what groups people identify with most closely. This is a question of personal opinion. An individusl's opinion may change over a lifetime, and differ from that of his or her parents.

It is generally agreed that those least clearly identified in the Census are second- and of migrants, and people of mixed parentage. If a Census question was unequivocally concerned with family origin most of the "black other group would record that their parents and grandparents had come from the Caribbean Recause of growing black-white marriage, it would also be necessary to ask separately about your mother's and your father's family origin. This pair of changes would provide a solid demographic base.

There are also important sociological and political issues about a sense of community identity or "belonging". The Census may have a role to play in a national rec-ognition of Britain as a multicultural society. This is a com-plex issue affecting white people such as Jews or those of Irish descent, as well as those of black or Asian origin. It may require detailed and sensitive investigation in a special survey before quesions can be considered for inclusion in the national

The important point is that the Office for National Statis-tics should experiment with well-thought-out alternative approaches, as well as narrow variants on the existing nuestion.

Richard Berthoud. Tariq Modood. Ethnic Equality and Diversity Group, Policy Studies Institute. 100 Park Village East, London NW1 8SR

shopfronts at Minehead also

Searching questions, and the turning of the screw trusted professional who would not countenance breaching prison security. There is one other possible explanation, however, and it is that other measures which are taken make it unnecessary to search official My experience as a social visitors. worker visiting Scottish pris- When When speaking to a dis-

charged visitor I learned that after I had visited him in prison he had been detained in the interview room and very carefully searched for contraband. I cannot say if the searching of prisoners rier in such dealings is a well following such visits was turned "screw" standard, but the fact that David Pocock. such an option is available

Angus Baxter. 8 Talisman Rise, Dedridge, Livingston,

THE IDEA that probation officers might take illicit matter into prisons is laughable. Like all the other socalled "civilians" working in prisons they are too intimidated by uniformed staff to dream of such a thing. On the other hand, as any experi-enced convict with a bit of money on the outside could tell you, the most reliable couturned "screw".

18 St Anne's Crescent

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: In Porlock Bay | month wrecked walls and there is an inviting space where flat green fields reach the edge of the Bristol Chan-nel and only a shallow bank of shingle divides land from sea. On a still December day the water was as flat as the fields, sheep and cows were grazing in a scene of absolute peace and it was hard to imagine that the shingle bank performs the necessary office of barrier against high tides and rough weather. The quietness and shallowness of the shore, where small craft can easily be beached, made this a spot formerly favoured by smugglers, but it is also one of those places where there are, from time to time, powerful reminders that the folk who lived in what is now Somerset used once to have to keep a wary eye on sky and seasons, ready to gather their cattle swiftly up on to higher ground when the sea began to encroach and turn much of the land into lakes or impassable swamp. The combination of wind and tide that last

poured water over the shingle bank, flooded fields, and killed dozens of the farmer's sheep. The parish council has, in each of the past two years, made a grant of £1,000 for repairs to the shingle bank, but this latest storm has prompted wider consideration of the protection of the coastline and meanwhile payment is being withheld. A councillor is quoted as not expecting much to be done for some time. He says that the National Trust has engaged the services of a Cambridge professor to study the matter. The pattern that man and geological events have made will provide a rich field for his researches. If he gets beyond the two Quantoxheads, and down a lane past the Priory at Kilve, he will come to an eerie expanse of flat jig-saw shapes made by dark shales and bands of limestone. It looks like a landscape by Dali. JOHN VALLINS

Korea is edging forward: but it will be a tricky transition

The difficulties of detente

EDGING forward towards detente on counted the most important task is to rised Zone between the country's two halves. But even with cautious qualification, the apology from North Korea which the USA has brokered does indicate that progress can be made. Pyongyang's reaction to being found out in September when its spy submarine ran aground off the South's eastern coast was extremely truculent. No one could be sure whether it was a routine patrol which went wrong or a sabotage mission with a specific target, and if the latter, whether it had been personally ordered by the North Korean leader Kim Jong-il or by some other faction. The Seoul government had its own reasons for playing up the potential threat, making it hard even for foreign diplomats on the spot to gauge its real significance. The Clinton administration reacted coolly - to the point of upsetting Seoul - but Washington's preference for a compromise solution

has paid off. This is the first time that Pyongyang has ever expressed its "deep regret" for any covert action. Its stated intention to make efforts to ensure that such an incident will not recur" is just as unprecedented. It is hardly surprising that North Korean propaganda was attempting yesterday to present this climb-down to its own people in the most favourable light, denouncing the South once again with flery language. Yes, Korea is edging forward, but it is a tricky transition all round.

the Korean peninsula is as tricky as press ahead on three fronts, with the of the 1994 nuclear agreement, and progress towards a broader North-South dialogue under joint US and Chinese auspices

The Northern behaviour over recent months conveys more than a hint of inner turmoil. The party elite no longer accepts the Kim Il-sung cult unconditionally, while the general population is alienated by food shortages and the growth of corruption. These are the signs of a political culture in chronic and perhaps dangerous decline. South Korea, though a very different type of society, is also in a state of transition from a past which it shares necessarily with the North. Democratic reforms do not easily address underlying patterns of privilege and authoritarian control. Yesterday the New York Times described President Kim Young-sam's new security law, rushed through a secretly convened session of the National Assembly, as a damaging blow to South Korea's emerging democracy. His new labour legislation, poorly drafted and criticised from all sides. has also been passed without debate and in the face of widespread workers' protests. It is true that the opposition had tried to physically prevent the Assembly from meeting, but secret manoeuvres by the ruling party can only compound the damage to democracy.

Honours of a sentimental populist

The real test of daring would have been to award gongs to Oasis

IT'S A FAIR bet that there are no there today. The real test would have knighthoods winging their way back to been to award MBEs to Oasis. Buckingham Palace this morning in protest at the honour awarded today to Paul McCartney. Thirty years ago it was very different when he and his fellow Beatles got the MBE "for services to exports". This was denounced by the guardians of conservative Britain as proof of what happens if you get a Labour government and the country is ruled by Harold Wilson.

How things have changed. Today, a Conservative government awards a knighthood to Sir Paul and propels Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber to the House of Lords - an honour which was never given to Elgar. Today, there is no more sentimental populist in power than John Major: his New Year's Honours List groans with names which meant something in Brixton in the 1950s -Joan Collins, Frankie Vaughan, Alec Bedser — but which are a bit forgotten

Today's list shows the honours system at its best and its worst. If there must be honours, then it is right that the people's real heroes should be recognised. But it also contains a reminder in the standard issue knighthoods to. Conservative backbenchers of no special distinction — of what is unacceptable about the system, the expecta-

tion that gongs go with the job. Next time there is an honours' list it may be authorised by a new Prime Minister. Let him commit himself in advance to two basic reforms of the system. First, that honours can only be given to those who pay the bulk of their taxes in this country (that would thin out today's list), and second, that no one elected to the House of Commons can ever be made a member of the House of Lords. That would sort out the political wheat from the chaff.

WAS perturbed to read of one which I visited was very ments for searching official the way probation officers lax, I prefer to draw the con-are being treated during offi-clusion that I was viewed as a

cial visits to prisons in Eng-land and Wales (Row over jail "humiliation", December 28). I cannot accept that there is any justification for the intimate searches which it appears some probation officers have endured.

ons could hardly have been more different. I was never subjected to any form of body search. I was occasionally asked to open my briefcase to display its contents. The only other scrutiny to which I was exposed was a careful check of my identification.

While it is tempting to conclude that security at the pris- negates any security argu- Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1SB.

TO THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON O

Diary

Matthew Norman

when Diarists endure the painful duty of selecting the nuggets which will merit a permanent place in our national cul-ture. The stories which, after exhaustive comparative research, we deem to be the true defining episodes of the age. The tales which, er, we get to re-use with no fur-ther efforts, and so preserve our Diarists' best energies for the new year.

B begin today with the contenders who came forward in 1996 in the quest to be Britain's drollest public-rela-tions practitioner. We thought we had a winner in May, when British Energy sent us a slickly produced "fact sheet" to launch a share offer. Would-be investors concerned about nu-clear waste found much to assuage their fears. "In common with other organisations, such as hospitals, which produce radioactive waste, the radioactive discharges by the nuclear industry are strictly regu-lated," it said. (Reassuring. especially for those in hospital.) But it was this that almost clinched it for British Energy: "The process of producing electricity from nuclear power is broadly similar to other types of power stations, such as coal, oil or gas," we were told, "except in respect of the source of heat." Utterly

UT it was not enough to win. Andrea Marks, from Edgware. Middlesex, came closer, with her press release for ber publishing client. BookTrack. The headline almost won for its could be good news for vegetarian food writers." There was also strong competition from Yorkshire Water, which sought a "Media Relations Manager". As the advert said, "the successful candidate will acquire some of the best media-relations experience in the UK". He or she will also "need to retain a sense of humour".

B had another out-standing entry from Lloyds Bank, which explained why it was sending out questionnaires "to help us maintain our leg-endary service". Legendary? Ah. The press office had an answer. "The word legendary," it told us, very slowly, as though to an imers realise that service is improving all the tip legendary referred to the future, not the past? "That's correct, yes. Legendary refers to ongoing improve-

UT the search ended with a winner when a medium-sized package, about right for an answering machine, arrived here in mid-July, addressed to our personal-finance editor, Margaret Hughes, It came from pensions firm Scottish Life, and in it was pigeon. A homing pigeon, in fact. in a "Yours featherly" letter, he introduced himself as Donald, and invited Margaret (one of 77 journal press conference on August 12. Although the box spoke

approved", you may remen ber that the society was furious — a response which had John Allison, Scottish Life's marketing director and the man who approved this brainwave of London PR firm Clarendon, "disap pointed and sad". We never heard from Mr Allison after we sent him a gift in the same box (a delicious herring, with the words "live bird" replaced by "dead fish" on the box), but to Mr Allison, we offer warmest congratulations, Can you win the double in '97?

PACE, finally, to tell you about the winner of the Diary's Rapid Rebuttal Prize of 1996. It goes, with absolutely no competition, to little Oory Wegs-Prosser, for rapidly rebutting the suggestion that Mandy Mandelson, the disco-loving MP for Hartlepool, was among those Tony Biair advisers savaged by Clare Short as "the people who live in the dark". Ooly was quite clear on the matter. "No, it's definitely not Mandy," he rebutted, even before we'd fully butted. Ac make this the Rapid Rebuttal Prize of 1997. It's a rare pleasure to probut before he



Beware media rats who will jump ship

Commentary Hugo Young

E enter the year of decision, for the people but also for the power that thinks it matters most. There will be no more entertaining sideshow to the British election than the spectacle of the Tory press oiling its way out of a dilemma it has done so much to creats. Having spent four years enfeebling the government it was instrumental in electing, it must decide whether household gods or ebsentee proprietors require it to support, as it always has done at elections, the diminished creature, or whether it should deem itself to have no alternative but to back the winning side. The life-span of strategic evasion in this delicate matter is about to expire.
Merriment beckons in many forms. For some columnists and editors, the power of mere logic could work an un-expected effect. Paul Johnson and William Rees-Mogg must be rivals for the world record in columnar annesia, but even they might find the rage

others, more than they them-selves, most tenderly invigilate. Whole newspapers, too,

have compiled such a well-stocked data-base of venom. instantly available on the Net, that a sudden manifesto of glowing support for Mr Major would be bound to call in question either their first judgment or their second: and therefore, inexorably, both. Commerce, I think, won't count for as much as some cynics have proposed. The no-tion that Mr Murdoch will instruct the Sun to back the Labour Party because most of its readers are now Labour

supporters overlooks the thin

connection, provable at many

elections, between voting and reading habits. More persuasive is the lure of power. Most proprietors like being in bed with governments, especially in this regu-latory age. All will be assess-ing how least to damage their chances of a seat at the table. Editors, for their part, may see an exploitable commodity in a show of apparent fairness and independence, in face of a victory they cannot stop. Once upon a time, allegiance was enough to overcome such temptations, but now alle-

and ridicule, sometimes the near-haired, they have evacuated on John Major impossible to square with a last-minute endorsement, for fear of knocking the last prop out from under a cradibility that others more than they them. quite likely to offer the perverse speciacle of Labour's first press tycoon, Lord Hollick, nonetheless failing to deliver. The Mail, the better to exaggerate its power, teasingly suggests the possibility of a break with the past. At the Times I seem to hear the throat-clearing of rats making prudent preparation for their

prudent preparation for their destiny. Almost certainly the destiny. Almost certainly the agonies apparent in the leader columns, whichever way they fall, will be reflected by a dank half-heartedness in the coverage. This will not be an election in which news-papers have either the nerve or the will to run front-page lies against the Labour Party every day of the campaign.
Which is exactly what

Labour strategists have been working for. Give us fairness in journalism, they say, and all will be hunky-dory. They've poured enormous effort into sweetening these historic enemies, and they're about to be rewarded. The courtship has been two-way and, from the party's point of view, has divided if not totally seduced the other side. Journeying from Wapping to Australia, and from Kensington to the Isle of Dogs, Tony Blair has become the accept able face of the party that

name in tycomish society.

Even if the reward is delivowever, the comic aspect of these writhings isn't all that's to be said about them. They may do their bit, more by emission than act, to help Labour get elected, but they don't deserve the credit that might usually be asaigned to an honest conver-sion. For there has been no conversion. And there's very

little honesty. If Tory journalists do back Labour to win, it won't have much to do with support for the Labour project. In no way will the early Labour years emulate those of Mrs Thatcher, when most editors chose to perform as uncritical struggle for national

recovery.

While acquiescing, for their own reasons, in a Labour victory, these papers can be relied on to resume their old attacking mode the moment

The compliance Labour seems to have secured from sections of the Tory press is more than a little treacherous

thing that brings it short-term unpopularity. Having wriggled out of their haired of Labour by reference to the brilliant qualities of Tony Blair, they won't take long to react to the painful discovery that Mr Blair is obliged to surround himself with a government full of characters they don't like.

Most of these proprietors editors and writers, more-

government but a new Con-servative party, and the Blair to that end. They look to build a party of the further right-welfare-curbing, privatising, minimal statist, and reliably phobic in its attitude to the more powerful engine to direct against what has to be a major government priority constructive membership

of the EU. The compliance Labour seems to have secured from sections of the Tory press is, therefore, more than a little treacherous. And it has been purchased at a high price. For what the press likes about Labour is that it appears no longer to be Labour at all. On very front where you can see the leadership softening or blurring, or reaching for the clothes of non-committal, you see Mr Blair's desire to be loved, or at least not feared, by the organs of the enemy. Tax him with this, and he al ways says the same: watch me when I'm in government, I shall be far more radical than you think. Yet this is precisely where the Tory press, after a tepid benediction, will

feel free to snap their jaws around him for having got elected on a false bill of goods. One of Labour's systemic disadvantages is that, unlike the Tories, it can never secure doting compliance from its own side. For this reason, it treats the Guardian more like an enemy than a friend. Good.

Bidding for the other side, however, rests on a worse de-lusion. Which would you prefer: A government that has paid tribute to the enemy, and is never allowed to forget it? Or one that laid out its programme fair and square, Surope not excluded, and got the mandate that enabled it to over, have their own, quite kick these fickle opportunists other, agenda. They're in the teeth?

How Whitehall kept poverty phobic in its attitude to the European Union. What they want, perhaps above all, is a



David Brindle

1996 file on embarrassing leaks of Whitehall documents, here is one more for the tally. It comes from the Department of Social Selight on the way civil ser-vants help politicians shut down debate on awkward

This has been the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, declared by the United Nations. Not many people in Britain know that, because the Government has quite deliberately done nothing about it. Poverty, it told the UN, was a matter for the Third World.

The story starts in March 1985 when a UN summit in Copenhagen agreed the anti-poverty thame and a programme of action for 1996. Britain was one of the few countries not represented by head of state or government. sending instead Baroness Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development. Nonethe-less, she signed up to a joint declaration committing Britain to "establish . . . strategies and affordable time-bound goals and targets for the sub-stantial reduction of overall poverty and the eradication of

absolute poverty".

This distinction between two measures of poverty is critical, because it goes to the heart of the argument the Government subsequently sought to deploy to justify its inaction. Ministers' resolve to do nothing became clear in the spring, when a coalition of welfare groups inquired how the Government proposed to fulfil the Copenha-gen declaration. The Coalition for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty — including Oxfam, Save the Children and the Low Pay Unit — pointed out that inequality had grown faster in Britain than in any other industrialised country except New Zealand

Peter Lilley, Social Security recommendations "principally relate to the needs of Britain already had in place "the infrastructure and social-protection systems to prevent poverty and maintain living standards".

that is the word) for this must their negative stance became David Brindle is social services clear. The coalition wrote correspondent of the Guardian

back to Lilley, arguing that the summit declaration had been carefully worded to in-clude Britain and to require industrialised countries to take specific, new steps to counter relative as well as absolute poverty. It requested a meeting with the minister to take its case further.

A confidential note sent at

that point to Lilley from a senior DSS official, Mark Palmer of the department's Income Support Policy division, has now come to light. previous reply to the coalition had "appeared on the front page of the Guardian and caused some controversy generally". Recommending a speedy further reply to the points raised by the coalition, he says: These points do not seem to further the debate greatly and there is clearly a significant difference in views between the coalition and the Government. A draft reply is attached, therefore, which takes a bullish line and

seeks to close the matter."

The note concludes: "With regard to the request for a meeting, there seems very little to gain ... As the request is made somewhat obliquely in the final paragraph of the letter, officials recommend that it is ignored entirely in

The letter drafted by Palmer, and sent by Lilley the next day, did indeed ignore the request for a meeting. Setting out the Government's social-security record in what might well be considered bullish terms, and avoiding any use of the word "poverty", it says: "I think we can fairly claim to have raised the public profile of the role of welfare to an extent that the issues are now widely recognised across the political spectrum and beyond our

ALMER'S note includes Done additional, fascinating aside. Shortly after the Guardian first reported the Government's refusal to act on the Copenhagen declaration, the news-paper carried a letter from Sir Norman Fowler, former Social Services Secretary, strongly supporting the Government's position. Enclosing a copy of this letter for Lil-ley's attention, Palmer says: "Sir Norman Fowler wrote to the Guardian (inspired by ministers) resuting the allega-

To obviate the need for a Whitehall leak inquiry into Guardian is on this occasion prepared to name its source. The note was helpfully sent among other documents, sup-plied by the DSS apparently The Government toughed it for briefing purposes, in res out and the international year ponse to a letter from the has passed here with little Blackpool Church Action on or impact. Credit (if Poverty group. The sender the word) for this must was Nick Hawkins, Conservago to the way ministers tive MP for Blackpool South.

David Brindle is social services



Should crime-victims' families have a say in sentencing? No, cautions David Edgar - but let them channel their rightful anger into positive action

Vengeance no answer

two British nurses are decapitated in Saudi Arabia, then one beneficial side-effect might be to slow the gadarene rush towards victim power in the criminal-justice system

here.
Whether or not Lucille
McLaughlin and Deborah Parry murdered Yvonne Gil-ford in the King Fahd Mili-tary Medical Centre in Dhahran, and whether if they did so they deserve to be publicly beheaded for it, the events of the weekend surely demon-strate not only the indignity but the cruelty of civing Mice strate not only the indignity but the cruelty of giving Miss Gilford's brother Frank — at a time of strain and grief — a responsibility he did not so-licit over the lives of two human beings he has never

yet the principle of victim power has become increasingly the stuff of public rheto-ric and (prospectively) judi-cial practice in this country. Four years ago, probation officers began to consult victims about the parole of criminals who had assaulted or robbed them, in order to take their concerns into account in im-posing residential and other conditions on parolees' release. Now, this perfectly sensible concern with the physical protection of former victims has mutated into a

current judicial practice, this move has been led by the press. Indeed, victims state-ments are merely giving offi-cial recognition to what has

the crime are heard in private and may be taken into account by the prosecution service and the courts. But clearly one possible outcome is the institution of open victim's statements in court, on the model of the system already operating in many American states. And it's not a far cry from that to the relatives of manslaughter and relatives of manslaughter and rally, she agreed. In this climarder victims also seeking to contribute to sentencing.

As with so much else in much the same rhetorical formuch the same real the same mation last Thursday, when he initially rejected making a clemency call on the grounds that "whoever did this did not cial recognition to what has give elemency to my sister":

It is not to devalue the grief the relatives of victims do not remember a time — though think, it is to respect it — to their relatives. Indeed, the

F, as still seems eminently possible, an Australian cab driver is
asked to decide whether
count by the prosecution sertransport of their experience of their experience of the crime are heard in private and may be taken into account by the prosecution sertransport of their experience of their experience of the crime are heard in private and may be taken into account by the prosecution sertransport of their experience of their experience of the crime are heard in private and murch of their experience of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of their experience of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and may be taken into account by the prosecution services.

The private are the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch of the crime are heard in private and murch are asked to measure their anguish on a completely inappropriate scale: in essence, they are being asked if they love their lost relative enough to see their killers swing for it (or only enough to see them put away). And so, as a consequence of a sloppy journalistic cliché — now peras a consequence of a stoppy journalistic cliché — now per-haps to be enshrined in Brit-ish law — Frank Gilford is pressurised by a question he should not be asked into testing his own feelings against those of the people who bat-tered his sister to death. None of this is to imply that

> Victim power is a benign form of lynch law. It is bad for civil liberties. It is bad for the victims and their families

there was one — when jour-nalists refrained from asking the victims and their relatives their opinion on the sentence ing of criminals. Now such questioning has developed its own set of rhetorical cliches, of which the most common is the analogy recently drawn by the mother of the victim of a hit-and-run driver in Bir-mingham, who commented on the outcome of the driver's trial: "It should have been a much more suspect scheme — being piloted in six police a life sentence." This formulation has become more or less too has become more or less too has become more or less compulsory in such journalism: earlier this year, during one of the periodic national one of the periodic national deletes on whether Myra

insist that to equate the punishment of a criminal with the grief of his victims' relatives is a false analogy. Vio-lent criminality demonstrates a failure of that very empathy with other human beings without which grief cannot be experienced. Punishment is indeed an external acknowl-edgment of the failure of the criminal to imagine what his victims or their relatives must feel like. Based on a fundamentally false premise, the analogy faces victims' families with a morally unacceptable choice. Indeed, it ac-

proper, understandable and justified rage by removing the responsibility for its redress. In the second presidential debate of the 1988 American national campaign, Democrat Michael Dukakis was asked how he would react if his wife Kitty was raped and mur-dered. Foolishly, Dukakis refused to engage with the lurid form of the question, and instead turned in a coolly rational outline of the anticapital-punishment case. What Dukakis should have year — to enable victims of composity in such potential robbery, sexual assault and burglary to influence sentencing. Thus far, statements by debates on whether Myra equate their degree of grief "Yes, Bob, I agree with the a new Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde

attacker apart with my bare hands. Which is why it is an excellent thing that the criminal-justice system has been set up quite precisely to pre-vent me doing so."

And Dukakis might have

gone on to point out how many victims' families, denied the chance to wreak ven-geance, have turned what might look like impotence into a real form of power. From Enniskillen via War rington and Lockerbie to Dun ringian and lockerise to lumblane, grieving families have channelled their grief into action to see that others might not suffer the same.

By contrast, victim power is a benign form of lynch law. It is had for civil liberties, in that it places decicious that that it places decisions that should be taken by disinterested professional strangers in the hands of people who are understandably and properly dominated by feelings of anger and vengeance. It is bad for the victims and their families, in that it asks them to put a value on the life of comeone they knew in the grief but someone else's punlehment. Islamic law appears to be asking Frank Gilford to choose between sending two women to a harbaric death or devaluing the importance of the life of his sister. It is not a position in which he — or any other grieving person — should be placed.

David Edgar is an author and playwright. His publications include Destiny, Pentecost, and



A politician of quiet integrity

Lanark and a quietly heroic minister for pensions from 1964 and 1966, and for social security be-tween 1966 and 1967. And when she resigned in 1967 it was as a quiet loyalist, after many rounds of battles for pensioners and poor families against her hated "overlord", the late Douglas (later Lord) Houghton, and the equally detested Chancellor, James (now Lord) Callaghan.

The basic issue was redistribution of taxes from middle-class males to benefits for pensioners and mothers. one shilling (5p) from Calla-ghan by an earlier threat of resignation. But when she was forced to capitulate to the

Treasury, she quit silently. Dick Crossman, her chief Cabinet supporter, disbelievingly explained in his Diary that she was the sort of party loyalist who "can't let herself be associated any more with an attitude of which she disapproves; but on the other hand she can't let herself oppose her colleagues in public because she does not want to be accused of disloyalty."

Crossman could not bridge the gap which separated him,

EGGY Herbison. Lanarkshire miner's bright who has died aged daughter. Born in Shotts, she attended the local Dykeshead come a member of Labour's school, then Belishill Academy and Glasgow University, where she chaired the university's Labour branch and earned her MA. She went on to teach English and history at Allen Glen's in Glasgow. Two of her brothers, one an

She resigned from government in 1967 on a point of principle, refusing to

or make personal capital out of her stand

made her the only woman to make party political broad-casts in the 1950 and 1951 elections. She served as undersecretary of state for Scotland in the fag end of the Attlee

In opposition, she was an unremarkable, mainstream loyalist, favouring party

National Executive in 1961. She was only dropped into the maelstrom of behind-the-

scenes infighting when she became minister for pensions in October 1964 in Harold Wilson's new government. It had a majority of three and a Olympic boxer, followed her father into the pits.

She entered Parliament in the great wave of 1945, having defeated Sir William An-She was a far-sighted

advertise the nature of her disagreement

struther-Gray. Peggy's talent was spotted early: she seconded the address in reply to the King's Speech in November 1947, and her gentle Scots schoolmarmish voice ing her initiatives and representations. had the added frustration of Douglas Houghton suppress-ing her initiatives and repre-senting her best ideas as his own to the Cabinet. On one odd occasion when she was allowed to represent her own her until Dick Crossman,

Because of her deep roots in her native Lanarkshire, she was able to retire peacefully to her home town of Shotts personal capital thereafter

when she made way for the late John Smith in 1970. She became Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1970-71. She did the occasional double-act at Scots me-morial lectures with John Smith, but she rarely became involved in public affairs until 1996, when the Scottish Office planned to concentrate Scotland's most dangerous criminals in Shotts prison. She then threatened Lord Douglas-Hamilton, in deploy-ing the skills which had al-most defeated chancellor James Callaghan in 1967.

Brian Wilson writes: No politician of modern times has better combined the rare qualities of integrity and personal humility than Peggy Herbison. The quiet dignity with which she served the Labour Party, not least at the time of her ministerial registration. er ministerial resignation may serve as a timely reminder that the movement is always bigger than any individual within it.

Peggy Herbison resigned quietly from Harold Wilson's government in 1967 on a point of principle. She did not advertise the nature of her dis-



Herbison . . . a far-sighted reformer frustrated by male colleagues. She had to fight to get her ideas across

Party". She came from mining stock, and did not need to learn the realities of politics and the instincts of the Tories from any source other than observation and experience. Herbison was immensely proud of the 1945 Labour gov-ernment's achievements and none more so than the nationalisation of the pits. She recalled in a recent interview: wonderful meeting we had in the Picture House in Shotts when Herbert Morrison and Pat Dollan came to tell us about the nationalisation of the coal industry, What a feeling of hope there was among the miners and their families.

alisation bill in the Com-mona, I was the first person through the division lobby." After she left Parliament in 1970, she continued to serve the Labour Party in any role that was required of her. At the last general election, she was given a heroic reception when she spoke at the last big rally in Glasgow. Then, at the Monklands East by-election which followed the death of John Smith, I was privileged to chair a wonderfull rally at

Peggy Herbison, unlike many with more ostenta-tiously left credentials, never

Herbison supported the suc-cessful candidacy of Helen

Liddell. She was still as sharp

as a tack and her messas

out of her principled stand stating simply that she had no intention of "giving the Tory press a story which would do harm to the Labour through the division lobby."

And when it came to the she got all the honour which she required in her own community of Shotts, where she would do harm to the Labour through the division lobby."

After the left Particular to the station and immensative and in the end and immensative and immen active and immensely respected figure.

> Lens Jeger adds: In her House of Commons maiden speech in 1945 Margaret Herbison abandoned the convention of not being controversial, making an angry and passionate speech. It was about housing conditions in her North Lanark constitu-ency, especially in the mining area of Shotts where the col-liers, bereft of pit-bead baths, came home to over-crowded squalid slums with no conve-niences in the house and where water had to be carried

the most explosive of Labour Party conferences. Aneurin Bevan, the left's standard bearer made an earthquake of a platform speech against a Campaign for Nuclear Disar-There was anger from the floor when he spoke of sending a Foreign Secretary naked into the conference chamber (a phrase too often quoted out of context) and seemed to rebuke the resolution's supporters for having an "emotional spasm".

She seemed almost alone in her composure as the shock of the deadening blows reverberated inside and outside the conference chamber.

The Rt Hon Peggy (Margaret McCrorie) Herbison, pol born March 12 1907; died

Baroness Birk

Labour's dynamo in the Lords

one of the outstanding women journalists chosen by Harold Wilson as a life peer in 1967 to reinforce Labour's ranks in the House of Lords. She did so with remarkable skill, expertise and a compo-sure that may have surprised some of the sceptics among her former journalistic colleagues who were ever ready, in those days, to underestimate the potential abilities of

a female journalist. Indeed Alma Birk was such benches in the Lords that it came as no great surprise when Harold Wilson, on be-coming prime minister for the third time in March 1974, appointed her Baroness-in-Waiting, an office in the the duties of a Government

She held that position until after Harold Wilson's fourth general election victory, in October 1974, when he ap-pointed her under-secretary the Environment as well as three departments — her own Transport and Treasury af-fairs. It was indeed a remarkable accolade for the former Daily Herald columnist and a breaking women's magazine

She remained at the Deent of the Environment until shortly before the 1979 general election when prime ninister James Callaghan appointed her to the prestigious post of minister of state in the Privy Council office. In opposition, Baroness

ARONESS Alma portant role for the Labour Birk, of Regent's Party in the Lords, as front-bench spokesperson on Environment from 1979 through to 1986. And under Nell Kinnock's leadership she became chief spokesperson for the op-position in the Lords on the arts, heritage, libraries, broadcasting and cable until

> ven as a working ist. I first met her in the early leagues on the old Daily Her-ald. She seemed to be simply non-stop; working on her weekly column, attending countless Labour Party meetvolved with numerous Jew ish welfare groups and equally numerous non-Jew-ish welfare groups. Her col-leagues at the Herald were everlastingly amazed at the energy, resoucefulness and variety of Alma's activities.

Her husband, Ellis Birk, a member of the Mirror Group Board (then the International Publishing Corporation)
could hardly have seen much
of Aima. Indeed their evening
reunions invariably began in pubs, associated with the Daily Herald which had already been acquired by Mir-

ror Group (IPC). Then came the great ven-ture with Nova where Alma Birk was associate editor with Dennis Hackett as editor them they built up a remark able team of writers on a magazine that was a sense tional success story at the time... and in many respect the precursor of the maga-



Birk . . . worked non-stop for causes she believed in

nalism receded. Alma was born the daughter of the Barnett and Alice son Greeting Card Publishing Company ensured a materially comfortable childhood. She was educated at South Hampstead High School before going on to study eco-nomics at the London School of Economics. It was at the

LSE, still under the aura of Harold Laski, where her poli-After graduation, she plunged into North London Labour Party affairs, becom-ing leader of the Labour group on Finchley Borough Council in 1950 — a few years before Margaret Thatch came Conservative MP for

Finchley — and remained leader until 1953. Alma Birk contested three parliamentary elections for the Labour Party: Ruislip and Northwood in 1950 and Portsmouth West in 1951 and again in 1955. But she was, as she put it later: "firmly but to varying degrees resisted by the electorate." ininister of state in the zines of today.

Suncil office.

Dosition, Baroness ready become Baroness Birk intinued to play an im
and her fascination with po
logue: member of the Hendon Decided in the electorate.

Her other activities are almost too numerous to cataand her fascination with po-

litical life was complete; jour- | group hospital management committee 1951-59; lecturer and prison visitor, Holloway Prison, 1967-71; member of the Howard League for Penal Reform since 1948; Youth Service Development Council, 1967-71; vice-president of the Council for Children's Welfare 1968-75; Health Education Council 1969-72; vice-president of Diverse Law Reform Union since 1969; vice-presdent Redbridge Jew-ish Youth Centre since 1970; Film Institute and a director pany. She was also a member of the committee of the Albany Trust, chairman of the arts sub-committee, and member of the Holocaust Me-mortal Committee; the Theatres Trust; the Council of the British Museum Society...where to stop?

She was indeed a remarkable woman who will be

and politician, born 1919; died

greatly missed. She is survived by Ellis and a son and a

died aged 90, was one of the most successful and influential composers of the inter-war French popular song industry. Although little-known outside France, compared with her contemporaries Charles Trenet or Edith Piaf, she established a style of chanson that was at once a departure from the typically tragic and gloomy repertoire of the realist singers and comers and a reaction against the big-band swing coming from America after 1930.

Born Mireille Hartuch, her arents were instrumentalists who expected her to become a her hands were too small and sne mm pearing at the Odéon in Paris, in roles such as Chērubin in Le Mariage de Figaro, until she was introduced one night backstage to the writer Jean

Nohain. Mireille's colleague for some time at the Odéon, Claude Dauphin, was Nowrite music," he said. "he writes verse, get together." They composed an operatia, Fouchtra, and sent it to the publisher Raoul Breton, but without an immediate response. Meanwhile Mireille where she stayed for three seasons, eventually starring on Broadway as Manon La Crevette in Noël Coward's Bttter Sweet, in 1929. Her rendi tion of If Love Were All owed everything to the style of cafeconcert and nothing to the world of Charlot revues from

The production was a huge critical success but the Wall Street crash took away the audiences. Meanwhile Couchés Dans Le Foin (Lying in the Hay), one of the songs Mirelle had written with Jean Nohain, had been extracted from to be performed by the cabaret duettists Jacques Pills and Georges Tabet. One night Mirelle returned to her hotel to

became a bestseller, and back in France Mirelle — always create their individual brand of French song that was taken up by the great singers of the day. For Maurice Chevaller, Quand un vicomite (When A Viscount), for the comedian Dranem, Papa n'a pas voulu. (Daddy Doesn't Want It), above all some songs for Jean Sablon which helped to make him the most famous of French crooners: Puisque pous went Away), Ce petit Chemin (This Little Road) and Fermé jusqu'à lundi (Closed Till Monday).

Mirellle's songs were ironic and escapist without being trite. She began performing, piano, sometimes with Pills and Tabet, and she had an extraordinary vivacity and way of rousing an audience which can be seen in a number of films made in the 1930s.

Jean Nohain was one of the driving forces in the Popular Front paper Marianne, and he introduced Mireille to his editor, Emmanuel Berl, a distinguished philosopher. He and Mireille had a "love story which only lasted 40 years", as she put it. During the Occupa-tion, Mireille ceased to perform or compose, but after the

Come Back. Stop. Signed liberation of Paris, she Daddy".

The disc by Pills and Tabet founded the Petit Conservatoire de la Chanson in the Rue

For the next 40 years more than 80,000 students audiideal of true French song among the students who gained fame were Françoise Hardy, Colette Magny and Hugues Aufray. "I remember all the students," Mirelle said two years ago, "I was always looking for that little spark

which would communicate it-self to the public."
In 1995, the impresario Jé-rôme Savary persuaded her to appear again, with a young group of musicisms called Les together a programme of her old songs. She appeared for a month at the Theatre de Chaillot and then took the act on tour, wearing a Lacroix gown. "No one was more surprised than me," she said, "when Jérôme Savary put the idea for-ward. I hadn't sung in public for a hundred years!" As always, Mireille appeared alone on stage, at the plano: "I never had an accompanist," she said, "and I'm not going to

Patrick O'Connor

start now."

Mireille Hartuch, singer and songwriter, born 1908; died De-



find a telegram: "All Paris singing Lying in the Hay Mireille...gave France songs of irony and escape

Birthdays ****************

Sir George Christie, chairman, Glyndebourne Opera. 62: John Denver, singer, 53; Alex Ferguson, football manager, 55; Roy Greenslade, writer and broadcaster, furmer editor, Daily Mirror, 50; Sir Anthony Hopkins, actor, 53: Ren Kingsley, actor, 53: 59; Ben Kingsley, actor, 53; Sarah Miles, actress, 53; Alex Salmond, Scottish Nationalist MP, 42; Donna Sum-mer, singer, 48; Simon Wie-santhal, Nazi hunter, 88.

Dutc

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later stops

Cheshunt. No Rowers.
CHAPLIN, Hugh. Aged S1 preured Keeper of Printed Books S1 The British Library.
Died peacefully at 2pm un Christmes Eve in University College Hospital The thorsel will be on 168t of January 4pm Colders Green Chemelarium. Flowers from benilty only and donations mode out to S E R 4 (Socialist & Environment Association Resources), cro Leventon & Son Ltd. 212 Eversholt Street NW1 IBD Tol. 0171 397

ceind of stame, and or izacy, sister of Janet, and son in lew of John and Marry, died at home as 24 Decamber, spect 47, after a long lithess, Funeral at St Giles Crippingate, the Barbican Icomer of Fore Street and Wood Street, London, at 11 am Fridow 5 January, followed on Saturday by a Lordon by bertal in Nortolk, Family Stevers. Donelions it dealed to Ammenty International or

ions II desired to Ammenty International or NSPCC.

FLACK, Brisen BA (OU), Aged 57, betwood husband of Nells and breved and devoted laster of Lyme. Died suddenty at nome in Chaffarm, (Kant. 34th December. Sacily messed.

MARSLABD. Peacabilly on December Sacily messed.

MARSLABD. Peacabilly on December. Sacily messed.

MARSLABD. Peacabilly on December. Sacily messed dearly loved husband of Clare and much loved tetter of Ketherine and Frank. Funeral Service at AB Salints Church, Bottongata, on Thursday January 2nd at 2.30pm, followed by cremation at Cartelle Cremistorhun, Family flowers only, done-tions II desired, to Caroor Research.

SWAN De Dewid M.G. (Lon.M.B.B.S.) of Sociogrande, Boslin. Suddenty on 21st December 1996, whilst visiting samily, sorely missed Husband or Shop. Samily, Sorely missed Husband or Shop. Brainly, Sorely missed Husband or Shop. Brainly, Brainer Jeremy and Gordon, Grandfalle, ord Amber, Thomas, Rupert, Freya, Latte. Calific and Misgan, Private family funeral, los B. Hollowell & Son and W. K. Bertadge Funeral Directors, Holly House, 2 Commass. Northempton Nett 188.

Jackdaw



Hang-low

WHAT You'll Need: Water, lots of it. Vitamins C and Bcomplex. Aspirin or other non-prescription analge Simple foods such as toast and fruit Honey, Sauerkraut juice. A darkened room. A cool compress or moist washcloth Tips: A wet washcloth or cool

compress on your forehea can help soothe the pain of a headache. If you're too queas to keep down water or juice, try small sips of flat, roomtemperature ginger ale. Take deep and slow breaths and avoid thinking about disturbing topics, eg, the newspapers. Precautionary measures: *Taking a gram or more of vitamin C for the few days leading up to that evening may help your body clear the alcohol more quickly than it normally would. * If you know that you'll be drinking in a few hours, make sure that you've got something in your

The morning after the night before: * A tablespoon or two of honey does wonders for some of us and believe it or not, sauerkraut juice is supposed to neutralise those nasty congeners still running around your system. ' If all else fails, go lie down in dark room. If your schedule allows you to stay there all day, you could be in pretty good shape by the evening. The advice we always plan to heed and never do. Taken from www.twoten.press.net/stories/ features/CHRISTMAS-Hangover.html

Of bees & bogs

1.BEE Bearding: A pastime ingly deranged, bee bearding involves persuading a swarm of bees to gather round

your neck and chin to create a "beard". The queen bee is placed in a small cage around you neck, or held gently be-tween your lips, and her pheremones will attract the swarm of worker bees to create the impression of copious — if somewhat restless — facial hair. John Phipps of the Beekeepers Quarterly, points out that only those who know everything about bees, or ab-solutely nothing would try to grow a bee beard. "Bee arders are fust showing off They only do it because it's a weird thing to do." He cites the case of the keen American bee bearder, Dr Norman Gary, who does it naked while playing the clarinet. 2. Bog Snorkelling: A com-

petitive sport that involves wimming two lengths of a 50ft trench dug in a bog and full of dirty water. The world championships of bog snorkelling have been held at Waen Rydd in Powys, mid-Wales, every August Bank holiday for the last 13 years. Qualification events are unnecessary because the world championships are the only

known bog snorkelling compe-

tition to be held anywhere,

3. 100-mile walking: We mean walking 100 miles all in one go, with no nights in any B&Bs. Just a few of the hazards are vomiting from over-exertion and trench foot from navigating through bogs in the dead of night, but the Long Distance Walkers Association's annual 100-mile event is always over-subscribed 4. Early Dancing: Turning up at a nightclub before it's opened? Not quite. The early in fact refers to the 15th to 18th centuries, when men knew the correct way to bow, all the steps to a gavotte and a more courteous way to aak a lady to dance than "You. Me. On the dance floor. Now". Madeleine inglehorn, who teaches early dancing at the Guildhall ays that her students are usu-

ally amateur musicians with a particular interest in early Octopush: A sport dreamed up by out of season British divers in Southsea about 40

years ago, and otherwise

known elsewhere in the world

teams of six, knitted up in a snorkel, mask and flippers at-tempt to whack a 31b lead puck across the bottom of a swimming pool and into each other's goal. The players have a small stick called a "pusher" and dive down to make contact. It's not the best spectator sport resembling from the

Men's Realth magazine sug-gests a few weekend hobbles to gests a yew weekern noovies a stop you winning in the Betty Boring stakes in the new year

urface nothing so much as a

lesperate scramble for lost

Food fad

LIF you eat something, but no one else sees you eat it, it has no calories 2. When drinking a diet soda while eating a candy bar, the calories in the candy bar are cancelled by the diet soda. 3. When you eat with somene else, calories don't count as long as you don't eat more than they do. 4. Foods used for medicinal ourposes "never" count. Re

not chocolate, brandy, toest, Sara Lee cheesecake,

5. If you fatten up everyone else around you, then you look thinner. . Movie-related foods do not have calories because they are part of the entertainment package and not part of one's have no calories. personal fuel

calories. The process of breaking the cookie causes calorie leakage. 8. Late night snacks have no calories. The refrigerator

. Cookie pieces contain no

Men's Heal

light is not strong enough for the calories to see their way into the calorie counter. 9. If you are in the process of preparing something, food licked off knives and spoons

For those preparing for the post-Christmas diet, a few hints to make the new year a little easier. Thanks to Mary

Time-waster USELESS Office Skill #163 Telephone Songs. You can

play music on your phone by pressing the buttons on the top (1,2,3) and along the side (6,9,#). But don't play the 4,5,7,8,*, or 0. They sound even worse than the others. Happy Birthday 112163 112196 11#9632 969363 Auld Lang Syne 11113212 321139##9331212 321##91 Frere Jacques 12311231 369369 9#9631,9#9631 191,191 Mary Had a Little Lamb 3212333 222,399 3212333 322321 Useless Office Skill #141 The Endless Fax: This stunt is guaranteed not to make you Employee of the Month, you'll be greatly relieved to know.

Make two copies of a nice friendly message. Tape them together. Feed them to your fax machine and start sending. When the first sheet comes out, quickly tape it to the second sheet to form a loop and go on a long vacation. Useless Office Skill #152 Credit Card Buzzing: Take 2

To place your announcement talephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4129 betwee 9um and 3om Mon-Fri.

credit cards and hold them back to back so the bumpy numbers are on the outside. Hold the cards extremely loosely at the edge of the short sides. Now blow air in between the cards. The sound you will hear will precisely express your feelings about the interest you are paying. To keep yourself looking busy until the new year hangover blows over or until you have got back your work enthusiasm after the party season. From Useless Office Skills at www.jic.net/-useless/

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdow guardian.co.uk; fox 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London ECIR 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

Withering of the world's workshop, page 12 Service sector firms top the market, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Olympic success helps to fill Britain's yacht sales



Dhas been given a boost by the medal-winning per-formance of the country's yachtsmen at the Olympics earlier this year, writes

Tony Beechey, chairman of the British Marine In-dustries Federation, said over in 1996 would be well about of the 21.67 billion total for 1995 and that the upturn should continue into 1997. The London Boat Show

which opens at Earls Court on Friday, will reflect the resurgence of interest, with sailing boats rather than motor vessels dominating the exhibition's central

builders have had a bumper year. "There has en a great resurgence in the sale of power boats, 90 per cent of which are ex-ported." Mr Bacchey said. "For example, Sunseek-ers has sold eight boats, each worth between

have been picking up slowly over the past 18 months, have been lifted by the Olympic success of Ben Ainslie, silver medal win-John Merricks and Ian Walker (pictured left), who came second in the 470

firm buys **US** group

Pauline Springett

HE consolidation of the world's insurance industry gained momentum yesterday when Dutch insurer Aegon announced it was buying the life operations of the US group Providian in a deal worth \$3.5 billion (£2.1

The deal - the largest life insurance acquisition in the US and one of the biggest in the world - is more evidence of the increasingly rapid consolidation in the sector. Under the deal, expected to

be completed in the first half of 1997, Providian shareholders will receive Aegon shares worth \$2.62 billion, Aegon will take on about \$780 million of debt and \$100 million of preference stock. Providian Corporation,

based in Louisville. Kentucky, operates throughout the US with 9,000 employees. The group includes Providian tish Equitable, which it Bancorp, a consumer lending unit that will be spun off as a separate company. Provi-dian's three insurance divdian's three agency group, direct insurance group, and capital management group — will become part of Aegon

Aegon is one of the world's in largest listed companies, with assets of more than \$100 billion. Three-quarters of its business is in life insurance and pensions. It is based in The Hague, operates in the Netherlands, the US, UK, Spain and Hungary, and has Spain and Hungary, and has companies have stronger captial bases and a greater power to negotiate rates than their discuss the impact on US jobs. | smaller rivals.

Micholas Bannister

Technology Editor

■HE Government is close

to a decision that will

leave the water compa-nies as the only utilities sub-

ject to detailed regulation rather than the market forces

of competition.
Ministers are believed to be

ready to abandon plans to in-

troduce widespread competi-

counterparts in the telecom-

Aegon's chairman. Kees Storm, said the two companies were highly compatible.

"The expansion of our tradi-

tional life insurance business

with its steady performance, provides a solid foundation for the high-growth asset acuness we have been pursuing." Irving Bailey, chairman of Providian Corp, said: "The deal provides our insurance activities with a committed partner and a solid platform for future success."

Aegon made it clear that it still had a war chest and was on the lookout for further acquisitions. The company made no secret of the fact that it has been trawling the UK for possible acquisitions, but a company spokesman said no announcement about the UK was imminent. "We are constantly looking, but it would have to be at the right

price." he said.

Aegon's purchase of Providian comes at the end of a year which has seen rapid consolidation among the world's insurers. In the UK, General Accident merged fax with Clerical Medical: Royal Insurance with Sun Alliance; and Refuge with

United Friendly.

Activity abroad includes the recent merger of France's AXA and UAP. Analysts are predicting more mergers as insurers realise that mega-

Dutch life City's reputation washes whiter in rain of Ks from the new year list

Mr Bagri's ennoblement comes only 10 days after the LME was lambasted by the Securities and Investments Board, which produced a seven-point plan to repair the damage inflicted to London's reputation for metals dealing in the wake of the \$1.8 billion (£1 billion) Sumitomo affair. The LME chairman, who is

also chairman of the metal trader MetDist, has strongly defended the role of his mar-ket executive against accusations that weaknesses in its regulatory systems allowed a rogue trader to perpetrate a massive copper fraud. The SIB has, however, put the \$7 billion-a-day LME on one year's notice to make pro- In the knight line: LME's Raj Bagri and 'robust' Peter Davis | be honoured.

■ VIDENCE that Britain's

economic recovery may

■be weaker than previ-

ously assumed has come from

wo respected independent

According to a report from

Dum and Bradstreet, the busi-

ness information service, the

fall in the annual rate of busi-

ness failures has almost dried

up while the number of busi-

cent on the figures for 1995. stagnating.



More worrying was the finding that business failures

have actually increased

everywhere, apart from Scot-land, Wales, London and the South-East.

In particular, there was a sharp rise in the number of failures in the East Midlands

— part of Britain's traditional industrial heartland — where

failures jumped by almost 18 per cent, while the West Mid-lands also showed a signifi-

Labour seized on the sur-



trade and industry secretary,

added: "These figures show the Government's claims for

the strength of the economy are grossly over optimistic."

The only bright spot in the survey — which Dun and Bradstreet called "disappoint-

businesses are continuing to

enjoy the fruits of the

recovery, with a 5.5 per cent fall in small business bank-ruptcies, against a 6.5 per

Philip Mellor, senior ana-

sconomic adviser Alan Budd

Margaret Beckett, shadow | crease, and this may well

ing" — is that small tinue into the new year. businesses are continuing to KPMG reported that while

lyst at Dun and Bradstreet, said: "It shows that pressures of cash flow on larger from £2.61 billion in 1995, businesses are tending to in-

also becomes a knight. Christopher Wilcock, the former head of the nuclear. power privatisation team at he Department of Trade and Industry, joins the list of people like John Neill of Uniknights even though shares in the highly contentious privatisation, which fell below the offer price, have only just started to show a profit for

The list of those made CBE includes David Cawthra, for mer director of infrastructure services privatisation at the British Railways Board, and Honor Chapman, a partner of Jones Lang Wootton and one of the few businesswomen to

cause problems for smaller companies in 1997."

auditor KPMG Corporate Finance vesterday said the new

recent market jitters, with the slowdown expected to con-

there was a sharp increase in the number of new issues in

There were 119 new issues in 1996, up from 86 in 1995, well below the record of 218 in

towards the end of the year.

Meanwhile, a report from

ing market can be as haz ardous as predicting the stock market. Although, strictly speaking, rational economic factors such as personal disposable income and interest rates should be the New gloom on business failures interest rates should be the main guide to house prices, the market in homes, like that for sterling or shares, can gather a momentum of its

> 1997 forecast today that next year, like 1996, will see growth of 7 per cent, with a similar rise in 1998. Putting unwilling to explore opportuside whether rises on this nitles elsewhere.

Honours with a whiff of lavender



Edited by Alex Brummer

echoes of the lars Harold Wilson's lavender resig-nation honours list in John Major's pre-election offering from Downing Street.

choice is the peerage for Raj choice is the peerage for kaj Bagri, chairman of the Lon-don Metal Exchange, which was caught up in the biggest fraud scandal in financial history — the £1.8 billion loss at Sumitomo. It was only two weeks ago that the Securities & Investment Board issued a searing indictment of practices at the LME, including possible conflicts of interest between board members who also happen to be leading players on the metals

exchange.
It could be argued that David Rowland, the chairman of Lloyd's of London, deserves his knighthood for seeing the London insurance market through the worst crisis in its history, when it lost £8 bil-lion, and back to safety. But rusiness at Lloyd's.

Among changes still needed is the establishment of a regufirm and transparent enough that the new Lloyd's has abandoned poor custom and

Lies Backingham

Lies Backingham

Lies Backingham

Al BaGRI, chairman of the London Metal Extender, whose reputstion as a leading market has been severely undersolned by the world's worst copper developed in the honours list.

Mr Bagri's ennoblement

Although Mr Bagri was not personally implicated in any the world's worst copper debeloped in the honours list.

The pugnacious chairman of the Rallirack and ousted boss grappling to cap the £8 billion losses incurred by the Lloyd's losses incurred by the Lloyd's market. Sir David is joined by graeme Odgers, chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers leaving a 22 million golden handshake from Anglo-Dutch personally implicated in any thin leaving a 22 million golden handshake from Anglo-Dutch personals in the new year hands

There is nothing wrong with honours as such: but if the Government is serious about wanting Britain to be the enterprise centre of Europe then it should award part, Bernd Pischetsrieder of BMW-Rover, Peter Wood of Direct Line and Sir Richard Greenbury of M&S who have invested in real jobs in

Housing hazard

ORECASTING the hous-

The Halifax suggests in its

scale are sensible, given an underlying inflation rate closer to one-third of these levels, the Halifax's confidence of a return to the sus-tainable house price picture of earlier decades looks com-placent. Certainly, as is

pointed out, the cut by the Tories in the value of Miras tax relief has removed a sub sidy to home ownership. But there have been other structural changes. The huge competition in the home loans market among the clearing banks, the newly converted mutuals, the direct telephone sales organisations and the committed mutuals means that the natural

restraints on lending are In the drive to acquire market share, the better-re-sourced groups may not be restrained by higher interest rates. Similarly, the convert-ing societies may offer stimulus to the housing market through the money pumped into severs' pockets through giveaways and bonuses, extremely useful to those first time buyers putting together a down-payment. This, together with a tax break in April, higher employment levels and the above inflation rise in average earnings, po-

When the Lawson Treasury lit the blue touch-paper in 1987 the take-off in house prices, at a similar stage of the economic cycle as this, came so quickly that it was almost unnoticed. With sterling daily hitting new highs and the election in earshot, the likelihood of Draconian

head off the rush into housing

Global cover

HE proposed \$3.5 billion offer by the Dutch in-surer Aegon NV for the US life company Providian the trend to size and global-isation in the insurance field. market attention on Commer-cial Union in Britain, which over candidate since the Royal and Sun Alliance decided to pool their resources in the spring. Another Dutch banking-cum-insurance group, ABN Amro, has been considered the most likely merger partner for CU. But so far the share price has run

ahead of the actuality.
The reasoning behind the
Providian deal is less about insurance and more about the changing nature of savings globally. Aegon already has a share of the Charlotte Square action with Scottish Equitable and plainly sees Provid-ian as an entry into the US savings industry.

The expansion of the pri-vate sector into pensions, as western governments cut welfare funding, together with new technologies, mean that a once unglamorous business is now seen as having great potential

It is to be hoped that UK financial groups have not become so focused on the Brit-

Rail fares cut to take on airlines

AIL FARES between London and Scotland were slashed yesterday as a price war erupted be-tween airlines and rail

The Great North Eastern Railway, owned by Sea Containers and operator of the East Coast mainline service, cut the price of a single fare from London to Scotland from £45 to just £19, undercutting scheduled air fares and bringing tariffs closer to coach

Christopher Garnett, GNER chief executive, said: "Going by rail is cheaper than flying, much quicker than coach travel and at this price a real alternative to taking the car."

to cut fares from Scotland to London to £19. The company said the price cut had boosted demand for seats. Coupled with other price-cutting moves, more advertising and a healthier economy, the lower fares had encouraged 750,000 more passengers on to GNER services since April. The new £19 single fares apply on all 15 services from London King's Cross to Edinburgh, Motherwell and Glasgow. Fares to Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness were also pegged at £23. Tickets must be booked a week in advance. GNER's strategy takes it into head-on competition with air-

lines such as EasyJet which

specialise in cheap fares.

The move, which comes into force on Sunday, follows

TOURIST RATES -- BANK SELLS Australia 2.05 Austria 17.97 Beigium 52.53 Canada 2.25 Cyprus 0.76 Denmark 9.80

italy 2,537 Maita 0.58 Hong Kong 12.75 India 60.55

Netherlands 2.87 New Zealand 2.32 Norway 10.63 Portugal 258.00 Saudi Arabia 6.30 Singapore 231 South Africa 7,78 Spain 215.00 Sweden 11,44 Switzerland 220

t 790 a week.

The survey, to be published impression given by other fig-

today, reports that there were ures recently that the 41,107 business failures in 1996 — a drop of just 0.5 per and that manufacturing was

cant increase.

company but have it deliv-

ered by another. said yesterday that moving water from one catchment pecially in the rivers used for fransferring it.

Richard Miles

In its annual review of the housing market, the Halifax says prices have risen by about 7 per cent this year, far more than its

1998, followed by a gradual slowdown towards the end of the millennium — pre-dictions broadly in line with other leading lenders'. The number of people : moving home next year is

in property sales during 1996.

Cuts in personal tax an-nounced in the Budget should help to sustain the upturn, while action taken by lenders to curb mort-gage discounts and cash-back offers will also contribute to steady

months of 1997.

The Halifax, which plans to become a bank through a stock market flotation in June, says the recovery in the housing market is "well established" and should be sustained while any rises in interest rates are moderate.

improvement, the Halifax

High levels of personal

expected to rise by more debt will also prevent too than 10 per cent, compared sharp a housing market with a 7 per cent increase recovery in the early

Any danger of a move back to boom and bust which characterised the 1970s and 1980s — is regarded as unlikely.
"A return to the steadler housing market of the 1960s rather than the sharp fluctuations of the past 25

years is a distinct possibility," it says. The broad spread of price

rises across the regions -

more on competition to improve efficiency and services. to have accepted arguments that the cost of building a It would also bolster his arnational grid for water, similar to those which already gument that the privatised water and sewerage compa-nies should keep their sepa-rate identities — and stock exexist for gas and electricity, would be prohibitive, and

at 790 a week.

change quotations — to give him sufficient scope for makwould raise insurmountable problems in terms of compatibility, quality and safety. ing industry-wide com-They are also having Mr Byatt has argued that doubts about the more modest "common carriage" propos als, under which a customer water companies subject to takeover from outside the industry should be relisted on could buy water from one

on the grounds that it would be cosily and impracticable.

Such a move will greatly strengthen the policing role of lan Byatt, the industry control of their shares being traded freely. lan Byatt, the industry regular area to another could cause environmental problems, escapilly in the rivers used for counterparts in the telecome in April, and a final report is munications, gas and electric in April, and a final report is ity industries are relying expected in the new year.

Water stops at free-market lock | House prices 'have a sixties swing

liquidations.

ME Halifax, Britain's biggest mortgage lender, today predicts a return to the steadier housing market growth of

forecast of 2 per cent.
The society predicts a 7-8 per cent rise in 1997 and

which the Halifax says may be attributable to the economic recovery being more evenly based — also con-trasts with the London-led upsurge and "ripple effect"

pillar cup c

THE REAL PICTURE/The closure of Yorkshire's Ferrybridge power station could spell doom for what waterways campaigners say should be a 'liquid motorway' to the North. Photograph: Don McPhee/Words: Martyn Halsall



shire's Ferrybridge power station in five years' time threatens one of Britain's most important canal systems, waterways campaigners are claiming. Government must end its long

HE closure of York- | the "liquid motorways" | now enjoying a revival as leisure traffic joins industrial shipments on silent, reflective journeys reducing lorry transport. Geoff Asprey, who moved to the Ferrybridge area

education and pleasure canal-cruise business, said a vital link in the Aire and Calder Navigation could die without the daily passage of the coal barges, which ct as dredgers. "The power station is

- 45,000 tonnes a week so they need a replace " he said. Heavy transport hurtled across the skyline by the

cooling towers over-

office. Landscaping and new moorings have encouraged leisure traffic, from bird-watchers to narrowboaters, in waters navi-gated by the Romans. Lock-keepers David Barker and Gary Botton

once alive with bonded can say is impossible; it's warehouses for bacon and all been done. You are talk-sugar, liquorice and molas-ing of thousands of tons ses. Barges unloaded Cor-nish clay for local potteries and sand for glass first pro-

waterways. He said government

coming in, in one go - and

there's no road rage on the Mr Asprey said: 'There's should penalise heavy history, could disappear sothing about the river you goods being taken by road down the river.

which could form suitable canal cargoes. Without a "replacement budget" to compensate for lost traffic, he said, environmentally friendly transport, and 2,000 years of com

Share success hides industrial malaise

Footsie charts changes to UK plc

IAN KING finds service sector firms floating to the top of stock market

HEN Courtaulds and Pilkington, two of the pil-lars of the industrial establishment, were dumped out of the FTSE-100 index of leading shares last week, it was a sad moment for those who cherish Britain's industrial

heritage.
Ironically, the pair were replaced by Hays, the distribution and recruitment group, and Mercury Asset Management, two companies epitomising the new service-based businesses which have increasingly made their mark on the commercial landscape. The move could be seen as

summing up Britain's industrial decline — Pilkington, a business founded in 1826, and Courtaulds, a company whose origins go back to 1909, being replaced by a company owned by the Kuwaiti Investment Office as recently as 1980 (Hays), and one of the biggest players in a sector (financial management) frequently

The shake-up was also in line with the other promotion and relegation issues that have taken place in Britain's leading share index this year. For instance, this year has the Footsie of Cookson, the in-dustrial materials group, and Rexam, the paper and print-ing group, and the arrival of Orange, the mobile phone op-erator, and retailers such as Argos and Next. Next year is likely to see

even greater domination by service-based companies. with at least three of the newly floated building societ-les — Halifax, Woolwich, and Allance and Leicester — all certain to join the Footsie. is yes. Footsie membership, is a huge boost to a company's status and the tracker funds that proliferate in the penthat promerate in the pen-sions and pens market have to buy and sell shares in compa-nies according to whether they are in the index or not

So companies beading for the exit have found that progress hastened, once index funds have started selling their shares in anticipation of relegation. This can destabllise a business and in some cases make it harder to raise money in the City. The Footsie is also a snap-shot of economic health and

of those sectors of the economy that are doing well. Taken in this context, the pressures

firms when the index began life on January 3 1984, only 54 now remain, while a signifi-cant number of hig industrial names — like Plessey, Fer-ranti and Trafalgar House —

have been taken over. That first index is intriguing reading. Most stocks were in manufacturing or indus-try, which accounted for just over two-thirds of the index, while service stocks, such as those in food and drink, fi-

The decline of the manufacturers has been masked by the arrival of the former nationalised industries

ccounted for the rest. Apart from Pearson, there was no representative of what has become the media sector, one of the stock market's powerhouses in the 1990s.
The balance in the Footsie

has shifted remarkably and there are now as many ser-vice stocks as manufacturing ones. Indeed, if the privatisation stocks are stripped out, the decline of the industrial and manufacturing stocks as intensified during the 1990s a percentage of the index ap-and the shake-up of the index pears even more dramatic. has been more wide-ranging.

Of the Footsle's original 100 and manufacturers has been The decline of the engineers

The state of the s

both partly government-owned — featured in the orig-inal index. Since then, the representation in the Footsle of the utilities and privatised industries has grown rapidly, and former nationalised companies now make up 15 per

18.86

Aside from 'new' sector:

like media, another to have increased its representation in the index is financial services, which accounts for an other 15 per cent, if banks, in-surers and venture capital group 31 are imped together. One sector that has stayed One sector that has stayed consistent over the Pootsie's first 13 years is retailing. Only 11 of the original line-up were retailers, including Sainsbury and Tasco, and — although names have come and gone over the years—the number is now tast one more number is now just one more.
Others to have vanished

of the former nationalised industries in the Footsie, starting with British Telecom in December 1984, although British Telecom in December 1984, although British Petroleum——said the better), Globe Investing the Swiss of the British Petroleum—said the better), Globe Investing the Swiss of the British Petroleum—said the better), Globe Investing the Swiss of the British Petroleum—said the better). ment Trust (taken over in 1990), and Consolidated Gold Fields (a big Hanson acquisition).

But by and large most com-panies in the Footsie's origi-nal line-up to have dropped out have done so because they or their industry have fallen on hard times in the interven-

ing years. Builders, or companies Builders, or companies linked to the housing market, spring to mind — Barratt Wimpey, and Beriaford have all vanished, while Sears, Johnson Matthey, English China Clays, Dalgety and Harrison & Crostield have had difficulties. Some, like Barisford, are now margoned. Berisford, are now marconed in the financial equivalent of the Beazer Homes League.

As fascinating as the origi-ual index itself is noting some of the more colourful companies to have featured in the nies to have Restured in the Footsie over the years. For instance, Polly Peck, Asil Nadir's company, was a member from October 1989 to October 1990, while British & Commonwealth — the company which collapsed after the disastrous acquisition of Atlantic Computers — fea-

1987 to April 1989, Blue Arrow, the recruitment com-pany at the centre of one of the City's biggest insider deal-ing scandals, was a member in 1987, and even Eurotunnel

figured once upon a time.

Most memorable, of course, is Maxwell Communication.

Corporation, which featured in the Footsie under its old BPCC guise from July 1986, but which followed its former proprietor overboard in De-cember 1991 — just a month after Cap'n Bob's own demise. Finally, Courtanids and Pilkington can console them-selves with the thought that plenty of companies have skidded out of the Footste, only to claw their way back.

Examples from the present index include Scottish & New castle, Bank of Scotland, Smiths Industries, Burmah Castrol, Asda, RMC, British Aerospace and Schroders, quite apart from Pilkington But Courtaulds - like

Forte, which also vanished from the Footsie this year — had been in the premier index right from the start. If it ever climbs back into the top flight, such is the power and influence of the fund managers these days, it may well find itself — like numerous other companies - to-ing and Atlantic Computers — fee fro-ing frequently in the years tured in the index from April to come.

Workshop of the world has put up the shutters

figures showing how Britain's manufacturing has withered

BRITAIN has only two representatives in a European Union top 20 of manufacturing regions, ac-cording to research published today by the GMB trade

The findings, based on a labour-force survey compiled by Eurostat, represent an in-dictment of Conservative industrial policy and underline the need for greater invest-ment in manufacturing indus-

turing jobs are in Germany, where unemployment is about four million, Italian regions claim snother three top 10 places.

Top of the list is BadenWürttemberg, where manufacturing jobs account for
43 per cent of the total. That

scrapes in at number 20. The report shows that six of

the regions with the heaviest

concentrations of manufac-

compares with 35.4 per cent in the East Midlands and 34.4 per cent in the West Midlands. The next most highly placed UK region is the North-west, at 27. Wales takes thirty-first place, Scotland ranks number 48 and North-

em reland fifty-first
The lowest scoring UK
region is the South-east,

try, according to the GMB.

The research ranks the where barely one job in five is a in manufacturing.

MARK MILNER on | while the West Midlands | "Nothing illustrates better the dismal failure of Tory industrial policy than this league table. There was a time when Britain was the workshop of the world, and the West Mildands was the workshop of Britain. Now the West Midlands just scrapes

into the top 20.
"It was fashionable in the early days of Thatcherism to say that manufacturing did not matter. It does. The prosperity of Europe's regions is in direct relationship to their manufacturing base. The UK needs a sustained period of investment in its manufacturing industries to secure the country's future."

Though most British regions clock up below average scores, the area which comes out with the lowest score is the Brussels region, home of the European Com-East Midlands fifteenth in a in manufacturing mission, where industry aclist based on the percentage of The GMB's general secretounts for just over 15 per jobs taken by manufacturing, bary, John Edmonds, said: cent of the employment total.

News in brief

Unfair dismissal cases increase

The number of unfair dis-missal cases has increased by a third over the past five years, according to figures disclosed in a parliamentary disclosed in a parliamentary answer by trade and industry minister John Taylor. Industrial Tribunals heard almost 10,000 cases in the year to March 1996, compared with fewer than 7,000 in 1991-92.

The success rate has fallen from 45 per cent to 38 per cent, but that still left more successful verdicts than five

successful verdicts than five Years ago.

Lukey purchase

Pools company Littlewoods has bought UK Charity Lotteries, operator of the Lukcy lottery brand which operates mainly in London and the South-east. The combination of Lukey with Littlewoods' ex-isting Scratchies scratchcards business will produce total turnover of £70,000.

Bank staff 'solid'

Finance union Bifu has pre-dicted a "massive response" to a call for a Scottish bank to a can for a scottish cank strike on Thursday. The strike, called to defend the fraditional January 2 holiday

north of the border, involves nearly 15,000 staff at Bank of Scotland, Clydesdale, Royal Bank of Scotland, TSB Scotland plus Lloyds Bowmaker, the Lloyds Bank subsidiary.

Yard chief cops art

The former head of Scotland Yard's Art and Antiques Squad is to join Nordstern, the art and antiques insurance company. Charles His, involved in the recovery of Munch's Scream, will build risk-prevention strategies and advise clients on security and recovery of stolen items.

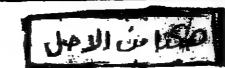
Rochet leads rescue

Marc Rochet, the chairman of the French subsidiary of British Alrways, TAT, was yester-day appointed chairman of Air Liberte, marking the longawaited takeover by BA of the insolvent French carrier. Under the rescue plan, BA is expected to take a 70 per cent stake and its partner, Banque

Northern okays US offer

Rivaud, 30 per cent.

Northern Electric yesterday recommended that sharehold ers accept a £782 million offer from US utility CalEnergy. ending the controversial twomonth takeover battle for the British utility.



Pillar to test Hill's **Cup credentials**

Chris Hawkins

OOME HILL, the highly impressive Hennessy winner, was the subject of a \$24,000 bet with Coral for the Cheltenham Gold Cup yester-day and was cut to 9-1 from

Although Coome Hill is entered for Saturday's Mildmay, Cazalet Chase at San-down he is short of work and is more likely to wait for the Pillar Property Investments Chase at Cheltenham at the end of next month, when he could meet One Man and

The weather has held us up but we worked him on the beach at Bude this morning and he did a good bit," said Walter Dennis, his trainer,

yesterday. "But we'd like him to be spot on when he runs and the Cheltenham race obviously gives us more time."

three places in the Champion
Hurdle at Cheltenham with
Collier Bay beating Alderbrook by two and a haif
lengths

snap, the clash is unlikely to take place unless there is

some ease in the ground.
Soft going is a prerequisite for Alderbrook, while Collier Bay is also entered in the Northern Handicap Hurdle at Haydock and will run wherever the ground is more in Northamptonshire in suitable.

Jim Old, his trainer, com-mented: "He's in great form and although he loves Sandown I'm afraid the ground is likely to be too firm for him." Bimsey, just beaten by Large Action in the Bula Hur-dle at Cheltenham last time, Dennis was fascinated to hear of the Gold Cup bet, but hear of the Gold Cup bet, but Castle Sweep and Dato Star was emphatic it was not are among the Sandown enare among the Sandown en-tries and in normal circumstable money.

Collier Bay, Alderbrook stances the race would be and Pridwell are among 15 enhighly informative.

Catterick the one ray of hope

ONLY Catterick, due to spection. Some frost is still race today and tomor- in the ground. row, holds out serious hopes of being able to stage jump racing over the next few days as the sport remains firmly in an icy

grip.
James Sanderson, race-course manager at Catterick, said: "We have had no adverse weather so far and would have been able to race every day since

Today's Taunton and is subject to a 7.30am in- on Saturday.

Exeter, one of six scheduled turf meetings tomor-row, was called off yester-day. Inspections will be held today for Cheltenham, Leicester, Windsor and Uttoxeter, and Thursday's two jump fixtures at Ayr and Market Rasen are under threat. They will also inspect today.

• All-weather racing will

be held every day this week after the BHB gave the go-Warwick cards were called ahead for an additional off yesterday and Fontwell meeting at Wolverhampton

tries for the Pertemps Hurdle at Sandown on Saturday, the race hastily arranged to replace the abandoned Christmas Hurdle at Kempton.

The last time this trio met was when they filled the first three places in the Champion

cap Hurdle. Upson has taken a dive down the training ladder in lengths.
Unfortunately, even if Sandown beats the current cold asco when his strongly fancied Zetas Son was denied a

> A fuming Upson was threat-ening the authorities with all sorts of legal action after that but nothing much materialised, rather like the equine talent at his Adstone stables recent seasons.
> One of the reasons is that

his horses have had persis-tent virus problems, but there are signs that the nightmare is be coming to an end and Nick The Beak could lift stable spirits this afternoon.

He is dropped in class here after finishing a very respectable third to Cadougold and Sparkling Yasmin at Chepstow lact time

stow last time. This is quite a competitive event and Troodos and Smart Approach will have their supporters.

Troodos won in fast time at Sedgefield recently over an extra two furlongs and there is no doubt about his ability to see out this extended three miles and a furlong. Another to run well at a recent Catterick meeting is

Chummy's Saga (2.30), who would not have to improve much on his second to Far away Blues last month to take the Fingall Selling Hurdle.
The two divisions of the Stand Maiden Hurdle feature a couple of decent Flat per-

formers in Bollin Frank (12.30) and Night Dance (3.30), both of whom showed promise on their first efforts



All to play for . . . Rawi (centre) and Darryll Holland turn for home at Lingfield with a narrow lead which they maintained to the line PHOTO. FRANK BARO

Holland head-hunted for Kelleway job

AY Kelleway wants | "I need someone like him | ing to talk about it but no | barryil Holland to be | for the ride on Musheer in the | firm decision has been made | down since the Bula Hurdle | O'Brien." | O'Brien." | O'Brien revealed that Urunary year. After Holland had | Tower will be going for Group | At Leopardstown yesterridden Rawi to victory for her at Lingfield yesterday, the trainer said: I need a topclass jockey as I will have a lot of horses next year.

Tower will be going for Group One races and Russian Music needs a good jockey."

Manchester-born Holland,

day, Theatreworld bounced back to form when he made all the running for an impres-24, was reluctant to commit sive success in the December himself. He said: "We are go-

fact he was working much better since. We will probably

bande is his likely main Lad-broke hope, the top-weight

keep him for the AIG Europe having recovered from the Champion Hurdle rather than marathon journey that pre-running him in the Ladbroke ceded his Newbury defeat by

Catterick card with guide to the latest form

12.30 STAND MAKEN HUMBLE (DAT I) SO STANDS 4 BOLLEN FRANK (49) T Exceedy 4-11-5 ... 4 DOINT TELL TON (120 J White 8-11-5 ...

DOBUSEDALE T 7 dis 4-11-5

(20-78 GOLT LAND (46) (87) L lange 4-11-5

8-03 BROMLY CRAMBING (1-2) M Barrandongh 4-11-5

JOCK MAY 5 WINAMADO 4-11-5

GOLT LAND (46) C Gent 5-11-5

HER CRISTORY D MATCH 4-11-5

HER CRISTORY D MATCH 4-11-5

HER CRISTORY OF HATCH 4-11-5

1-1-5 POSTED ARROAD (1-1) J Howard Johnson 4-11-5

D RACKH THE CRUDOS (2-6) John R Usero 4-11-5

6-4 USPER JORGE (2-20) S GORT J-11-5

6-4 USPER JORGE (2-20) HATCH 1-1-5

FSP3-11 CROUNT GOLD (2-6) F Welton 5-11-5

5-10-1 CROUNT GOLD (2-6) F Welton 5-11-5

5-10-1 CROUNT GOLD (2-6) F Welton 5-11-5

POICE GUIDE - PEACE LORD: Prominent, one peak from yout, 161 3rd of 16 behind Mr Percy (Handlegdon Cut 10, not Not, Cut) BOLLER SPLANKE Chased leader, chance 3 out, treatment-next, 251 4th of 5 behind Stratibles Way

i PREJUDICES C'h.mod Iredone, every c'auce lest, skryed en one pace, 45 40 of 12 behind Euralisk Th Printstellungh , 'm man hell. Gû-Frij NYT YELL TOBE 1, od 3 red untel heed, hield en same pace, 161 40 of 17 behind King Pin (Calberich Sacil nor

1.0	O caus	MANDEN CHASE Die C2,008
4	16	BRIGHTER SHADE (50) Mrs M Reveloy 5-11-5
- 4	HLDDDD	CARROLL SHINES (12) J Weds 7-17-5
=	"Jackfull	CHILDSWAY (116) S Robinson 6-11-6
-	(E44.4.40)	COOLERNY (15) V Thompson 7-11-5
4	.grepr-u	COOLARIES CAN A LIGHT CONTRACT OF THE PROPERTY
5	4- P43	CHERACH PETER (20) Mrs P Sicherton 9-11-5 Gray Lowin (3)
4	(POPG-P	MINIST ARAGORN (26) Not S Laurence 7-11-5
	KI 63	PAIR ALLY (12) M Sourceby 6-11-5
- :		AL AND HAD 1899 1899 D TIMBER R. T. C.
•		16 A SERVICE OF THE PARTY OF TH
	IMPH &	QUIXALL CROSSETT (10) E Calso 11-31-5Tricta Durislem (7)
10	1244	QUIXALL CROSSETT (10) & Called 1 1-1-1-3
75	Q%G00	SOUTH COAST STAR (11) I Howard Johnson 5-11-5
12	P	CHORUS LINE (60) P Bessmant (-11-0
18	ALC: UNKNOWN	Name of the Control of the State of the Stat
14	p	PRINTIVE PERSY (35) Mrs D Hame 5-11-0 P Takey
		· Rie

TOP FORM TIPS: Cherus Line B, Kurenastine 7, Carregh Pater 6 Betting: 11-4 Charus Lee, 7-2 Stopher Shede, 5-1 Kerenashen, 7-1 Diday Rysser, 16-1 Giamangilia, 16-1 Curay Prior, Children, 14-1 Fair Ally, 18-1 Pressure Penny PORM GUIDE - CHORUS Linds Lad until approaching 4 set, soon sulpaced, 161 Zeq of 4 behind Golden

POBLIN EUROR — CONTROL 73, GO)
EUROPETER SHADIN Held up. Chapting bedfore 41 aug. andle riddign and basilen. 191 6th of 20 behind Colous
EUROPETER SHADIN Held up. Chapting bedfore 41 aug. andle riddign and basilen. 191 6th of 20 behind Colous
C.U. (Carlish: 7117 Not Fig. Go)
C.U. (Carlish: 7117 Not Fig. Go)
EUROPETER SHADIN Held up. Chapting 2 aug. aver packs, 51 2nd of 7 behind This Scidior (Gazierick
EUROPETER STREET THE PLANT OF THE COLUMN TO STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER PRODUCT RETRIEBE IN INCIDENT STRYOT ON Red, RESERVED PRODUCT A COLD, GESTARD 4th of 9 betted Art Prince CLEMANISCHETZ Always returning teaders, weakened aron 4 cut, distant 4th of 9 betted Art Prince CLEMANISCHETZ Always returning teaders, weakened aron 3 cut, distant 4th of 9 betted Art Prince (Doro Taler) Times 100 years of George Times 100 years of 3 betted Stingsby pulcester Imenticy CLEMANISCHETZ Lod on to 18th, outpaced from 3 cut, 2013 and of 3 betted Stingsby pulcester Imenticy

nevel (idfm)	
1-30 BARTON COMMITTONIAL JOCKETT MANDROLP HUMBLE 3m 14 110 1 14-01P. JOHNSTY KELLY (AREA) Care 5-12-0 1 97-613 RICK THE BERK (24) John R Upon I-11-12 2 07-130-MOORESHIE DARCON (267) (267) BERKE 5-11-6 4 17-131-130-MOORESHIE DARCON (267) (267) L Lugge 3-10-12 4 17-131-130-130-131-131-131-131-131-13-13-13-13-13-13-1	3 Supple (2) 8 Lee 9 Costline (2) 9 Costline (3) 9 Medium (5) 9 Medium (5) 9 Medium (5) 8 Medium (7) 8 Costline

12 remotes
TOP PORM THEN Docks Castle S, Mok The Book 7, Treaden 6
Bettlem 4 : Nys The Book 9-2 Docks Castle, 5-1 Treaden, 6-1 Seart Approach, 7-1 Public
T.tp. 10-1 Quiet Mareys, 12-1 Magasterie Dages, 14-1 Testati Tower Points CALEDIE. MICHEL THEE BEALTH relation, headway Sth., one pace from 2 cst., 513rd of 8-behind Cadougold-"Anglet" or (2011); her rel. (20) (Anglet or (2011)); her rel. (20) (Anglet or (2011)); (encyan nazdway to feed 12th, left 16th behind Genta Led (Cadonict Smith Vey nov ct., MART APPROACHS Presument, headway 2 col. charce less, not quicken, dil 2nd of 7 behted Pharams CONTROL OF THE CONTROL OF THE SALE BOOK THE SALE OF STATE int. Cuf. PLAT TOP: Hisa.Tway J cul. 54 Z ust, stayed on well but, 35 ath of 11 bathlod Fryup Saladide (Catterists SmSI

Top hell, Call

CALLETY SESTMENTS. Promisent seculopoed 3 and ren on again list, 36 and of 11 behind Roberty Lan

Photosphy 2011 (20 list, SB)

LINGPIELD

1.05 (1m 20; 1, ANCATURA, C Retter
11-07. 25. Beginter (15-9 inv). 3, Box
11-07. 25. Beginter (15-9 inv). 3, Box
11-07. 25 (15) 1-10 (14-0 Dour F: E11.60.
11-07. 20 (15) 1-10 (14-0 Dour F: E11.60.
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Dem (7-1), 7-2 tim Master Beveled, 11 ran. 2.
4. (P. Budier) Tone, 69.30; 67.90, 65.50, 62.50.
Dual F: 590.76 Trio: 553.70, GSF; 556.54.
Tricast 1256.56.
3.05 (etc): 1, Triat www.asbourne 1004, F.
Lynch (4-2 ton); 2, Khairan Hisan (4-1); 3, Whethers (4-1) 3 ran. 7, X. (H tollinelessed)
Totat 11.00, Dual F: 21.60, CSF; 52.41.
3.35. (1m 450. t. VITT ABARE, 3 Senders
(10-11 ton); 2, Sann Rockett (9-1); 3, Persians Goospass (4-1), 7 ran. 5X. B. (Bides Gay Kallevrsy) Totat: 52.40; 51.70, 52.20, Dual F: 54.60, CSF; 52.38. e. Lockey Seb Senders tisished four short of his first century for the year when yet Again woo at Lingded yetserday. He has buir bobled mouths today at the ocurse to reach bid turget on the test day of 1995.

1	25121 THIN PALLS (12) (C) G Moore 5-12-0	
2	103-4US WINDOWY (17) M Barrischooph 7-11-6	
ã	20122F BALLYLDIE (38) W Kenn 5-11-8A P McCoy	
4	17-6044 OVERWHIRLN (14) V Thompson 8-11-4	
•	05-PSIP ELLIOTT'S WISH (11) J Howard Johanon S-11-1	
ě	SAIP1 PROSTTER PLICHT (19) (D) Mass I, Saidel 9-11-0	
7	ORGELL-P WORLD WITHOUT DID (21) M Soversby 7-11-0	
À	264-61 CARSO'S BOY (15) JTurner 5-18-15	
ĕ	68:P4-3P MANGOVER (25) R Los 16-15-8	
ıō.	20504-0 TRESTAIN'S CORRET (265) J.L. Herris 1-18-0 D Gallegier	
iī	100(PH WOST MICH (794) 5 Elison \$-10-7	
iż	API-600 MARLIMOPORD (31) Mrs J. Jordan 9-10-0	
13	00-2555 KELTULLA (21) Mrs 5 Spots 6-10-6	
14	SOFTER MONAUCRITY MAN (12) E Caine 10-18-0	
ï	Pront MOSS PAGEST (1965) F Walton 5-10-0 B Sherry	
	Milit Tilfit: Bellyline il, Torin Friis 7, Prositer Pigit 6	
	- a strat Mara S of Salkation S. of Shannana Physic Editoria White hit of Missalia Management C	

POINT OUTDIE - TWEN FALLIK Close up, ind tint, stayed no well, som by \$\text{\$\

er.	2.3	30 ma	ALL SELLING MANDICAP HURDLE Sam CR,077	
٠. ا	1	\$-3054B	AMORAK (13) G Moore 6-11-13 W Namely (7)	
ď	2	AFIS-P	CALLARDINI (32) (D) B Pothesi 7-11-11A P McCoy	
		PS-0450	WORDSHITH (88) (0) JL Harris 6-17-4	
	4	0445-30	AMMTHE ALICE (24) J Pic Gerati 6-11-7 F Leating (3)	
	6	95380-2	WEATHER ALERT (25) K Moreon 5-17-C A 5 Smith	
	6	501000	FLY TO THE END (1.5) (CD) J Ouim 6-10-11 Blogies (2)	
	ÿ	MO-JIRST	ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (13) W NCKerwa 5-10-11 G Calai +	
	i i	30404-00	MOGRAM (48) A Windows 5-43-17 \$ Taylor [8]	
-	-	0005-00P	FAMELAR ART (11) (CD) D Mother 5-15-9	
- 1	10	\$20_480	CARLAMON'S SAGA (27) L LINGO 6-10-3	
	11	00-5	BOLD TOP (18) 8 Romans 4-10-6	
	12	253-074	TROY'S DREAM (14) M Hammond 5-17-6	
	13	SULL-PS	ARTHUR HEX (27) & Bookleki 9-10-0	
	14	CH-CP4F	MISS MONT (14) F Municipi 7-10-0	
•	18	DD-0502	ESCONDS AWAY (14) J Golds 5-19-5	
	10	POPLP	TOUGH CHARACTER (25) M Somersty 3-10-0	
		-	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	

TOP PORM TIPS: Environmental Law 2, Assent 7, Western Alast 8 POWE GROUP - ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: Chased leaders, every chance tar, legs on, head 2nd of 1 behind Leaf. Try (Caterick 2m cov kep tell, Gd.).
WEATHER ALERTY Led 2nd to 5th, chance 2 out, one pace, 42 2nd of 10 behind Gleonatty (Market Passe

Zmill 10y sell hop hol. Golj. AMCHAND Led Irom 4th until other 8 sut. weakened quickly. 24 Bits of 10 behind Tirmaza (California Smill sell Applicating the great many area and a second second

_		
3.0	O MEVELE CHINE HANDICAP CHASE 2m 1/ 110/mb C3,054	
4	13/31/2- POPESHALL (248) (D) 14th 5 9/1/ums on 9-12-0	A Todd (7)
2	311-25F WHIST WILL BOY (11) (D) (BF) P Beschool 10-11-9	_ R Supple
3	USEP-U TERM STATES (RT) (CD) J Turner 7-11-2	
4	1-00UC GALE AMEAD (27) (D) G Moore 8-11-2	M Bentley
5	4/CPS-1 HEAVENLY CITIZEN (12) (CD) J Glods co 8-18-13	I Storey
	3473U-4 CALL THE SHOTS (48) J Hode 7-13-8	K Joses
. 7	PSS_433 SPARSOW HALL (12) J FitzGerati 9-10-8	
	(/3-41F1 GROKS LAD (1-3) (CD) Uss S Stokh 9-10-4	Richard Charl
		G Ca6#
10	453-PP1 TOM SOLDHER (13) (C) M Berractough 9-19-2	A Debbin
11	5141 DAWK LAD (21) Mrs A Swinbank 7-10-6	30pple
11 1		

Therefore 7-2 Howsely Glazer, 9-2 Cale Ahand, 5-1 Westwell Boy, 6-1 Germ Lad, 5-1 Deve Lad, 50-1 Cal The Shots, The Soldier, Sperrow Hall, 12-1 Jundes

Smittlidy bepick, Ski): BADR Prominent, 180 19th well lest, kept on, 21 2nd of 10 betind Kennerry-Speed (Catanisk

pål b	ep ch, Geft	
1.3	O STAND MARRIE MURDLE (DAY 2) 2m \$1,825	
4	COURT FRANCAIS N' Wagget 4-11-5	
•	0 MYTHEAAM (124) Mrs A Swinback 4-11-5	J Railton
=	0-FDF JARROW (18) Mrs A Haughton 5-17-5	M Pester
ī	4 MICHT DANCE (21) X Morges 4-11-5	A \$ See2th
è	11- MORDIC PRINCE (405) T Tate 5-11-5	R Geriffe
-	. N-0 OSYNOUS RISK (29) E Camp 5-11-5	Trigton Davidson
7	M POLITICAL MILLSTAR (28) R Nove 4-11-5	N Senticy
	OLIANGO J FitzGetald 4-11-6	AP BoCoy
=	0-4P SELECTRIC (49) J Wade 6-11-5	K Jones
10	25-5158 SELVER SERVE (12) Mrs M Revoley 4-11-5	Miren
	SIRAMON LIS D Hairs 4-17-5	F Titley
11		R Sample
22	DAS-6 WIELERSON BOY (97) R Woodhouse 4-71-5	Collectors
13	hear of ALL J Berry 4-17-0	_ II Melensy
14	an assume that I Manager 2 71 0	R McCosth (5)
15		Webard Quest
16	COLD THE LET'S GOLDERGER (283) Mrs S Str. 25 5-17-6	

Betfing 5-2 hight Dance, 3-1 Custon, 6-2 Words: Points, 7-1 Suranom, 8-1 Best Of All, 12-1 In Sther Man, 20-1 Tage, Welburn Boy, Jaron

Blinkered for the first time today: CATTERICK 2.06 Ellion's Wish; 2.30 Chummy's Saga, FONT-WELL 1.10 Subotense; 1.40 Lord Vick, LINGFIELD 1.25 Kilcullen Lad; 2.25 Dancing Jack; 3.25 Gold Lance, 3.25 Logic Pert Lad.

Lingfield all-weather Flat programme with form guide

2.55 Ada

23/015 BASAYEL (3) (0) (BP) P Evens 6-1-12 00345 COM SHO NO (5) S Don 3-6-10 00005 ADBLOV (5) J Bridger 4-8-0 0-0000 COMERNS FAMCY (18) S Don 3-7-20

POREM CHIEFLY - BROUNDERFOORS PORTRELLA Started slowly, headings 31 cut, linished well, 28 2nd of 12 Septind Workschartstee, with MATTHIAS MYSTICUE (18) before offi '1 sway and Lingsheld 2m hcp.). RASAYEE Dweb, chased leaders helivery, indices 20 cut, soon beaven, 16 8th of 12 beford Consery Fascon (Workertenghous Invol.).

COM SHO INC. Hospitary 7 cut, large on one poor large 3, 9 3nd of 10 behind Motasstambias, with ADE, OV

55:221 JUST LOUI (17) (CD) W Turns 1-7
45015 HEAVISHLY MISS (5) (C) (D) J. Ridger 3-13
102211 RECURLEN LAD (14) (CD) P Moonty 8-13
110004 EARLS TO PLEASE (11) (CD) (RF) Gny Kelleway 8-9
1010210 ADVANCE REPGO (1404) (D) J. Abrust 8-9
103007 ROCK TO THE TOP (46) J. Shecken 8-9
102210 WINDOWN (1) C. Allen 7-11 TOP PORM TIPS Just Lord 4, Kiloulian Lad 7 Bettings 8-4 Kikusten Lett. 5-2 Juni Lour, 5-1 Enger To Please, 5-1 Heaventy Mass, 8-1 Advance Repro, 18-1 Wordson, 12-1 Rock To The Top

PORM CHIDE: MILCUILLEN LAID: Led Brei hufong, ran on, won by hand from The Wyandolfe lon, with EAGER TO PLEASE (game 2b) 9th and HEAVENLY MISS (rec 2b) less of 12 (Lingüisid 61 hop). JOSEL LOUIS Missle at, quick-med 21 oct, lost blid on, won by neck horn Foot Bestablen (Movembangston 71). REALVENLY MISSEL and stoll headed over 13 odt, weakened 14 oct, 12 5gr of 7 behind bland Prince (Lingüisid 61 hop). Previously bless Melbourne Princess 21 pere (SI), with EAGER TO PLEASE (gave 4b) another 281 story 4th of 5.

ADVANCE RESPROY Led 41, westerned well over 10 oct, 201 7th of 11 behind Ben's Ridge (Wolverhampton 14

1.55 LIGHT BRIGADE HEMAN AUCTION MADDEN STACES 2YO SI C1,738

PORTIN GUIDNE - CREEKI BOULEYARD: Prominent, hard nidden over 2 out, one pace, 71 5th of 9 behind Fa

2.25 Hekerman Hahidicap df [1],738	
161 SQUIRE CORRECCES (26) (D) D Chapman 4-10-0	
162 S04500 CREEKY CHAPPY (8) (CD) D Creption 5-10-0A College 1+	
63 00007 SHAP1/96) (C) J Cor 3-9-10	
556 00003 COLSTON-C (26) P Evers 4-P-5	
186 530100 WISTER RAIDER (31) (CD) E Wheeler 4-9-5	
950 05000 DANCING JACK (18) (CD) J Bridger 3-5-5	
67 00005 WINDROSH BOY (18) (D) J Bosley 6-1-0C Rostor 4	
168 00040-0 BRIGHT PARAGON (252) (CD) K kpry 7-8-5	
168 005045 DAAMMERA (18) (CD) P Howing 5-8-3 J Quien 5-9	
HO 00350 OSCILIGHTS OFT (105) Mark Campton 4-7-13	
OF FORM TIPE: Squire Corrie S, Cheeky Chappy 7, Shell S	
letting 7-2 Sringil, 4-1 Squire Corne, 9-2 Chanky Chappy, 5-1 Coiston-C, 8-1 Mister Relater, Windrael lay, 12-1 Desniers, Oschigith, Girl, 16-1 Bright Peragon	
CIEM GUIDE - SINAFE Haadway Si cut, led 11 out, ran on, won by neck from Never Think Twice (Lingfield 5 cp).	ſ
CHRISE COMPLE: Steaded start, always bahind, lighted of 12th of 13 behind Mr Frosky (50s@well (ii hop),	
HENRY CHAPPY: Never going pace of leaders. 1819th of 13 behind Amington Lass (Wolverincopton S	1

26-30 CRIEGA MARCICAP In 27 CL364

801 B-012 ADMITTOR (28) (CD) (EP) Mb 3 J Crcl 4-9-12

802 001221 AMORL FACE (20) (CD) P Even 3-7-12

803 \$13056 PRILETAR (21) (CD) 3 Indiano 3-9-11

804 07 (41) DOUBLE BUISH (42) (CD) 7 India 4-3-11

805 10450 KITTY KITTY CAMCAN (33) Levy Herries 1-8-3

805 10450 ARMINEQUEN WALK (17) (D) (EP) R 0 Schlear 5-8-10

807 103940 BUITCR (16) 5 Dor 3-7-13

808 00003 BANCO OF JOY (1845) Liber 4-7-12

809 00003 BANCO OF JOY (1845) Liber 4-7-12

809 00000 GREAT BEAR (11) D Chapman 4-7-10

709 PORN 178-8 Appel Face 8, Adendron 7, Philipsir 6

Builden E. J. Arms Eng. 3, 4 december 7, 27 Crable Right, A. Philater Kithe

Bettings 5-3 Angel Face, 3-1 Ademion, 7-9 Double Pissh, 8-1 Philater, Kitly Kitly Cancan, 10-1 Herfequin Wigh, 12-1 Dence Di Joy, 16-1 Burter, 20-1 Great Basz (Ancester Tind, Gd).

(Ancester Tind, Gd).

(Ancester Tind, Gd).

(ANCESTING WALKS Lock over it out until over 3 out, 12 dit of 14 behind Radwok (Linghted Ind) incp).

(ANCES OF JOY's Baning until headway over 1 out, Calyed on fires). 48 fra of 11 behind Rot or La Mer

3.25 THEN HED LINE MAUDER STAKES TO \$2,788

606	05-0000 GRACIOUS GRETCLO (21) P Evens 3-8-9	T G Malassidia &
606	HIGHTIDE J Arpoid 4-8-9	A Cherk 1
607	0-0000 JARRER DO (32) B Priling 4-8-9	Dage O'ttelli 7
608	044-034 RIVER SERVE (5) 5 Knight 4-8-9	S Sandara D
609 610	300005 SHERMOOD (20) K luray 3-8-9	
TOP I	FORM TIPS: Eresting in Paris 8, River Soine 7	
Settle Grack	ugs 5-2 Eventing in Paris, 11-4 Magazine Gap, 5-1 Fliver Seine, 8-1 Jare pus Greicin, 12-1 Logie Pert Lad, 14-1 Shermond, Gold Lance	er Do, 10-1 Square Mile Miles 10 ramen
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Royle plugs a gap with Phelan

an Ross

ERRY PHELAN'S brief and undistincareer ended abruptly

The Republic of Ireland international defender will complete the formalities of a £850,000 transfer this lunch-time and will be pencilled in for a debut in tomorrow evening's Premiership meeting with Blackburn Rovers at Goodison Park.

Everton's manager Joe Royle agreed to meet Chelsea's asking price for the versatile 29-year-old after losing, to injury and suspension, several experienced first-team

With Andy Hinchcliffe likely to miss the remainder season after damaging cruciate ligaments 10 days ago, Dave Watson and Craig Short absent with short-term injuries and David Unsworth suspended. Royle was scrap-ing the bottom of his defen-

sive barrel.
"It was important that we did something in the light of the recent injury to Andy Hinchcliffe," said Royle.

"Terry is an experienced player who still has much to offer. He played for Chelsea against Sheffield Wednesday at the weekend and was outstanding by all accounts. We do have two outstanding pros-pects for left-back at this club in John Hills and Michael Ball but they are not ready

Phelan joined Chelsea from Manchester City in a £900,000 deal 13 months ago but has been unable to hold down a

Patrick Glenn

Hibernian

IM DUFFY was ap-pointed manager of Hi-bernian in some style

yesterday when, at the ex-pense of the club's controlling

18th was only minutes behind, when Duffy's assistant at Dundee, John McCormack,

was appointed his successor.

It was lack of money at Dens Park which prompted

Duffy's move. He had consis-tently refused to sign a con-

Duffy lands at

Ruud Gullit was promoted to

player-manager. The AC Milan forward De jan Savicevic is expected to join Manchester United in the summer. The 30-year-old, who is also considering an offer from Monaco, believes that Milan "will try to sell me for

as much as possible.

"All combinations are possible but the most probable is that I'll join Manchester United." Bryan Robson could be

forced into a comeback at Arsenal tomorrow, 10 days short of his 40th birthday. The Middlesbrough manager. who may be without as many as 10 players, said: "I'm definitely in the squad and then it depends on the injuries whether I start the game.
There are seven players out
and three others doubtful.
I've just got to see how they
are tomorrow."
Middlesbrough also expect

to receive a work permit for the Slovakian international left-back Vladimir Kinder this week, allowing them to complete a £1 million deal

The Manchester United full-back Phil Neville has been ruled out for a month after going down with glandular fever. His illness is an un-timely blow for a club already without Gary Pallister, who has suffered a recurrence of back trouble and misses tomorrow's league game with Aston Villa and Sunday's FA Cup third-round tie against

The last 10,000 tickets for England's World Cup qualifying match with Italy in February will go on sale on Thursdeal 13 months ago but has day from 9am, but only for been unable to hold down a regular first-team place since | bley box office.



Cup pointer? . . . Stevenage's manager Paul Fairclough gives instructions during Saturday's visit of Hayes, who were 3-0 down when the game was abandoned at half-time FRANK BARCH

FACUP PROFILE

Stevenage face welcome distraction

best eaten cold. So when Barry Hayles runs on to the pitch at St Andrews on Saturday he will have ice in his heart rather than fire in his belly. Eighteen months ago the Steve Bull of Stevenage Borough was given a trial by Birmingham City and was devastated when nothing came of it. "I'm looking for-ward to going there and proving them wrong," the 24-yearold striker growled menac-ingly. "A hat-trick would be nice but I'll be looking for one or two for sure.

Hayles has been Steven there. But he had no resources with which to improve the team, and in the past few months he had been forced to age's top scorer for the past two seasons and his 29 goals in the Vauxhall Conference last season helped them to the championship.

and Jim Hamilton at prices Unwittingly, however, his below their true value. goals may also have helped plunge Borough into more Miller and bring to an end the deed admitted that the speed of the appointment had taken him aback. "It's not often any year contract in Edinburgh he became the 17th managerial change in Scotland since the start of the season. The lath was only minutes be
Miller and bring to an end the deed admitted that the speed of the appointment had taken him aback. "It's not often any body finds me lost for words and for such an ambitious club as Hibs to offer me the position is something I could only dream about," he said.

Mike Bateson. As the bottom club in the Football League, the crue of the start of the season. The lath was only minutes be
Torquay United chairman Mike Bateson. As the bottom club in the Football League, the traditional surge of giant-killing optimism. Stevenage are gnawing at their nails and worrying that their very existence is under threat.

It all began to go wrong for the season. The lath was only minutes be
Torquay United chairman Mike Bateson. As the bottom club in the Football League, the crue of chairman Mike Bateson. As the bottom club in the Football League, the crue of chairman Mike Bateson. As the bottom club in the Football League, the crue of chairman Mike Bateson. As the bottom club in the Football League, the crue of should a Conference side be promoted.

According to Bateson, Chance of overhauling Steven-dard, would have meant the speed the traditional surge of giant-killing optimism, Stevenage are gnawing at their nails and worrying that their very existence is under threat.

It all began to go wrong for the surge of giant-killing optimism, Stevenage are gnawing at their nails and worrying that their very existence is under threat.

It all began to go wrong for the surge of giant-killing optimism, Stevenage are gnawing at their nails and worrying that their very existence is under threat.

Torquay United chairman Torquay United Chairman Mike Bateson. As the bottom club in the Football League, the country of giant and would a Conference side be promoted.

According to Bateson.

position is something I could only dream about," he said. "But it was a difficult personal decision to make be-cause of my rapport with the Dundee directors, players and supporters. I learned a lot at Dundee and I'll hopefully use

sell the forwards Neil McCann

that to good effect at tract at the club, who thus had little choice but to give him last Friday.

His regret at leaving Tayside was genuine, as he was happy and highly regarded

Hibernian."

He could hardly face a more daunting introduction, though, with tomorrow's home derby against Hearts followed by a match against the champlons Rangers, also at Easter Road, on Saturday. Hibernian.

EVENGE is a dish came the third Conference best eaten cold. So side in a row to be denied promotion to the Football League because their ground was not up to scratch on the cut-off date of December 31 the previ-

> launch a High Court action against the Football League, claiming that the denial of promotion was "unreasonable restraint of trade". But in July they lost — and lost again on appeal.
>
> There the matter should have ended, but the legal

Hayles was worth his weight in gold to Stevenage in more ways than even he could have suspected. Last March, the court was

told, the Stevenage chairman Victor Green had made an un-expected phone call to the Torquay United chairman

tence is under threat.

It all began to go wrong for Hayles. He then suggested that Torquay should pay Stether Conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be track the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to see and an unnamed cinto have means that the conference citle. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph, as they be tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph tracked to the conference title tracked to the conference title. It was a hollow triumph tracked to the conference title tracked to the conference title tracked to the conference trac



'A misconduct

of powers'

charge can carry any

level of punishment.

Relegation is within

the FA's wide range

Report by Mark Redding

ship. Bateson said later: "He never called back." As a result of those allega-tions the Football Association

misconduct. A date for the hearing has yet to be set for

Wednesday

Nick Variey

officials.

band banned

on Wednesday

THE SEASON of goodwill ended abruptly for Shef-field Wednesday's fans' band yesterday when they

were barred from their club's New Year's Day

the nine-strong group

were told they were not welcome at Derby because of fears expressed by the home club's safety officer

and other Baseball Ground

They are concerned that home fans in sections ad-

joining the away end may be provoked by the visitors'

work that has led to the club's | and financial provisos have climb up the non-League pyr-amid, with four championships in six years including a first Conference title and their best run in the FA Cup, could be undone almost

overnight.
"A miscondust charge can
carry any level of punishment; the PA's powers are
very wide within a football context. So in a punishment relating to a club it can be fines, to bans, to suspen-sions," an FA spokesman said. "Relegation is within the FA's powers."

"It concerns us, of course it does, but I can't comment on ti at all," the Stevenage chair-man said. "Any body that does not have a set procedure like the FA would [be a cause of concern [for] anyone." Fairclough said. "We've got a personal hearing and, until such time, I don't want to dis-

cuss it. But, needless to say, we have not done anything illegal at the football club at all." Our prime concern is to

also been relaxed. season Stevenage got off to an indifferent start. "We were devastated by not getting pro-motion and we are still reel-

beware. The club are begin-ning to find their feet again. They are sixth in the table with games in hand and, hav-ing disposed of Third Div-ision Leyton Orient before 7,000 in east London in the last round, they are ready for

First out of the hat in the draw, they switched the tie to Birmingham where there is a 25,000 capacity, and they will be hoping that history repeats itself. Two years ago Kidder-minster went to St Andrews. knocked Birmingham out of

If there is some comfort to be had for Stevenage it is that although their High Court action failed through being initiated too late, it has at ful for the town and our supleast resulted in a change to porters, but we hope if we do the Football League's criteria well against League opposiwhat is a case without for promotion from the Contion it will boost the configuration that all the hard precedent.

It means that all the hard have to be ready until April 1

in our fevour."

bit treble 15 to leave double

top but went for double 18. He got a single 18, then double

nine and thought he had won

until the referee told him he

was four short. Next time up he hit the required double two with his second dart and

took the leg and, in due course, the match.

Michael Adams, top seed in the Hastings Premier, crashed to his third succes-

sive defeat when Edouard Ro-zentalis, the Lithuanian

champlon, outplayed him in a 50-move Caro-Kann Defence,

writes Leonard Barden. Rozentalis shares the lead with the Leicester grandmaster Mark Hebden, who beat Scotland's Paul Motwani. The for-

mer world women's cham-pion Xie Jun, who led at the

start of round three, resigned

to Stuart Coriquest in a 28-

Judge Joachim Plass, trying Steffi Graf's father Peter on

charges of tax evasion, said

move Tromp Opening.

Tennis

Chess

Ince banned for four matches

THE England midfleider returning to England at the Paul Ince was given a four-match ban yesterday for protesting with foul lan-runs to 1999. guage and abusive gestures after he was sent off in an Italian League match. Ince was initially only

booked by Stefano Farina during his club Interna-zionale's 1-1 draw with Reggiana on December 22 low into his third red card of the season. The lengthy suspension

will heighten speculation about the player's future in about the player's future in Italy. Italian newspapers yesterday suggested that Ince was considering hand" from the tunnel.

A disciplinary report said Ince had applauded the ref-eree mockingly after being eree mockingly after being booked, a gesture that brought him the red card which in turn prompted "vulgar and offensive lan-guage". It added that Ince, encouraged to leave the pitch by his team-mates, then repeatedly tapped his forehead with his finger in forehead with his finger in front of another match off-

Results

ICIS LEAGUE P

Basketball LIMOSTARS MATCH (Intention): West 114, East 117, NEAk Indiana 102, New Jersey 110 (ett.)
Milwaguses 44, Manut 25; LA Labert 115, Prificelphia (62)-134-135-116-317-6; 88. Lamillage distrellingus Emphras Conferences Asteroido 20 Delicions 1, Missra (7023, L7, Pet.767, GBC); 2, New York (20-8-714-2); 3, Washington 1, Charles (15-15-158-7). Colorado (15-15-158-7). 2 Deliroit (21-7-730-6); 3, Gloveland (15-16-543-7).

Western Conference Midwest Divisions 1, Houston (29-6-783-5); 2, Unit (22-6-786-5); 3, Minnesota (12-17-414-11), Puetite Divisions 1, LA Lakers (22-9-710-0); 2, Seattle (21-10-677-1); 3, Persund (16-15-516-5).

Cricket

Ice Hockey

HRML Calgary 3. Philadelphia 4; Florida 1, Montreal 2: B Lunis 4, Southu 2: Chicago 4, Hartford 3: Colorado 3, Delita 2. Lemina of the Calendra of the Calendr

PIOCRCEY
DIVERSONAL TOURNAMENTS (Bristol):
U-17 North East 1, East 2: North West 0,
South East 0: South West 0, West 0. (Fournament shandoned). U-16t North East 1;
East 4; North West 0, South East 4; South
West 2, West 1; North East 0. South West 5;
Addands 1, East 6, (Tournament abandoned). West 1; Seath 16;
East 2; North 1; East 16;
WOMEN'S TERRITORIAL TOURIAMENT'S (Nillion Keynael): U-61; West 2;
East 2; North 0, South 2: Michands 2, West
1, Fland standinger 1, East (P4, Prof); 2,
South (4-7); 3, Michands (4-7); 4, West
(4-4); 5, North (4-5), U-16t Michands
5, Fland standinger 1, East 12; 2, North 1;
Michands 8, U-16t East 1, South 2; West
4, North 1; Michands 8, East 0, Standinger
1, Michands 8, U-16t East 1, South 2; West
4, North 1; Michands 8, East 0, Standinger
1, Michands 1; 2, East 6; 3, West 6.

Fixtures

Rugby Union ice Hockey

drum and horn support.

Despite board-level lob The French Bret division club Le Hevre laws laten Arseng's gut-of-levour striker Carle Nivemp, on loan for six months with an option for a permanent transfer, River-unys. 27, piesped 201 league matches and scored 51 goels for javelch before his ying on the musicians' be half, their songs — which were to include a version of Auld Lang Syne for the day — will be absent. The band leader John Hemmingham said: "We

erys. 27. played 200 league cantohus and scored 31 globals for igeneich before his move to Highbory test yeer. But he has neede only 14 league appearances for the Losdon citib.

9 Aston Villa's midlieder Mark Oraper is to delay groin surgery to help his cituh's Prantiership title challenge. Draper le reeigned to the lact be will eventually need an operation which will keep him out of action for hour to six venetus. But he hoping he can postpose surgery for at least Villa's Brites important league games. In the next fornight against Manchasser. will go with our instru-ments and leave them outside when we go in if they insist, but it does seem a bit ridiculous to say the least.
"At Chelsea on Saturday
the away section was both below and next to home fans but there was no trou-

> people as a general rule — were even joining in." Members of the Wednes-day board are said to be furious at the sauh, which they suspect is more to do with discouraging noisy support than any real

hardly known as the nicest

But a spokesman for Derby, which will have a jazz band of its own at the game, said: "Our safety of-ficer has deemed it inappro-priate for the band to be allowed in because of the lay-out of our away end. "The Sheffield band are welcome at their ground but this is the Baseball

Ground and we can provide the entertainment."

Sport in brief

Rugby Union

Ricky Evans, the former Wales prop who left Llanelli for Cardigan last month, will make a final "guest" appear-ance for the Scarlets against lialy today, provided Stradey Park is passed fit this morn-ing. It will be his 222nd game for the club.

The Bath forward Dan Lyle leads the United States Eagles in their opening tour match against Emerging Wales at Cardiff Arms Park tomorrow. The side also includes the Reading pair Mark Scharrenberg and Andre Bachelet, the Blackheath hooker Tom Billuos and the Pontypridd back. lups and the Pontypridd back-

Leicester's 24-year-old cen-tre Simon Beetham joined Nottingham yesterday and is set to play in Saturday's league match at Newcastle. **Darts**

Dennis Priestley, top seed in the Red Band World Championship at Purfleet, made a basic miscalculation during his group match with the hearing of evidence should be

American Steve Brown yes-concluded next Tuesday, fol-lowed by the final prosecu-first leg of the second set, he **Pools Forecast**

Sat, January 4 25 Aberdeen 36 Celtie 37 Dundee Uni 88 Hibernian 39 Rath Rvrs

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ENGLAND BATTING

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Sports Honours

Stalwart Bedser finally gets his knighthood

LEC BEDSER's long overdue knighthood delights the cricket world this morning. as an already raucously acclaimed year for the carsman Steven Redgrave and racing driver Damon Hill ends with a final gong for each from the British establishment.

There is a CBE for Redgrave to ca with the MEE here.

grave to go with the MBE he received in 1986, and an OBE

In the New Year's Honours List there are also MBEs for the England and Scotland soc-cer internationals David Seaman and Paul McStay, and for-rugby's Martin Offiah tan and Paul McStay, and for upby's Martin Offiah.

Bedser's knighthood bowler of his time who unsetted milikely when he was

Tennis

straction

after a record 13 years.

At the time, the endearing old heart-of-oak yeoman said with a shrug. "A knighthood? They are for fancy-dan betsmen. The last ruddy bowler to get one was Sir Francis. get one was Sir Francis

As a strapping and untin-ingly skilful medium-pacer, Bedser bowled his boots off for England in the post-war era. He took 236 Test wickets at 24 apiece. (For his beloved Surrey he took more than 1,900 at only 20. Awestruck John Major queued up for his

awarded the CHE in 1992, the year after this previously stall man, and once did for him in Botham as England's put man of England's selectors after a record 13 years.

At the successive Test innings. Half a century ago this February. Bedser clean-bowled under the recalled Mike Bradman for a duck in the Adelaide Test. The Australian still acknowledges it as the finest ball he ever received — "truly magnificent, an in-swinger which began outside off stump, it hit the pitch on

leg stamp and snapped back to take out middle and off. Remind Bedser of that ball this morning as he tucks proudly into his self-cooked breakfast at Woking opposite his identical twin Eric and he would mutter: "Yeah, I but most bats weren't good enough to miss 'em." As a selector, Bedser's most

once let loose the young lion under the recalled Mike Brearley; and, four years earlier in 1977, to persuade the sulking moper Geoffrey Boycott back into the Test fold. Poor, good Alec had to spend two hours in Boycott's car at the MI Watford gap ser-

vice station chivvying the errant Tyke to return, although to have "to corree a man into playing for England was one of the most distasteful things of my life". But it was for England's good. d's good. Another opening bowler, Ossle Wheatley, is also honoured this morning. He bowled vibrant enough swingers for Glamorgan through the 1960s off an unathletic lol-

hair seemingly always in his eyes. He could see enough to be an astute captain, but is awarded the CRE after a long stint with the disbanded TCCB; he is now chairman of the Sports Council for Wales. Seaman gets the MBE for his generally good show and

two penalty saves which sllowed England to progess to and, perhaps, for the hor "brilliant anticipation" simply as "fancy words for guess



did not, through injury, take part for Scotland in Euro 96 is the MBE for McStay, Celtic's trusty and at times volup-tuously eager veteran of 77 caps who was once defini-tively described as "the typi-cally passionate Celtic supporter who just happens to have a contract to play for the

Offish's MBE nicely nods a cause for, and pause for, cele-bration after the tumult and of rugby in the past 12



Offiah . . . whizz on the wing

reconciliation. The already legendary world-acclaimed whize on the wing learned his stuff with rugby union before breathtakingly breaking all records with rugby league — six times top try scorer, and 26 in only 33 Tests — and then returning for half a year to

union again. He not only deserves offi-cial benediction for his treious touchline-trampling deeds, but as representing the embodiment of a happy armi-stice and the end of a sometimes quite pathetic 100-year war between British rugby

EEDS RHINOS have register with the signings of the Tongan prop Mar-

tin Masella and the Austra-lian hooker Wayne Collins. Both are 27 and Leeds hope they will provide the experi-ence the side too often lacked during the first Super League season when they finished

Rugby League

Rhinos

capture

imports

final

Paul Fitzpatrick

third from bottom. Masella has played with Illawarra, Balmain and South Sydney. Collins was a mem-ber of the Canberra Raiders squad for the World Club Challenge match with Widnes at Old Trafford in 1989; he has since played for Sydney St George and, last season, for the South Queensland

Leeds coach Dean Bell as a "no-nonsense type of for-ward", was in the Tonga side in the 1995 World Cup, and their coach Mike McClennan, formerly of St Helens, recom mended him to Leeds.

When Gary Hetherington became Leeds's chief executive in October he promised that no time would be wasted Ryan Sheridan, Dean Lawford and Anthony Farrell were signed from Hethering-ton's former club Sheffield and Paul Sterling from Hull. Hetherington then turned his attention overseas and recruited Richie Blackmore, Jamie Mathiou and Damian

There will now inevitably be some departures, and Leeds are likely to part with the Tongan forward George Mann and the Kiwi forward Gary Mercer as well as Paul Gleadhill and Lee Maher, who both have been training with

The First Division club Widnes Vikings have appointed Shane Cooper, the 36-year-old former St Helens and New Zealand scrum-half, to their coaching staff. Cooper, who joined Widnes from St Helens 18 months ago, will take charge of the Alliance side but does not intend to stop playing.

Doug Laughton will now have the title of manager, with Bernard Long promoted from Alliance to first-team coach, Colin Whitfield, the former Salford. Wigan and Graham Liptrot as Academy

St Helens will not switch tomorrow's return challenge match with Wigan to Central Park if their Knowsley Road pitch is unfit at an inspection today.

coach.

David Howes, St Helens' chief executive, said: "Origi-nally we did consider a switch to Wigan but a deci sion would have been needed last week to arrange police cover. If the match is off it will be rearranged at Knows-ley Road."

Saints, 32-22 down from the first leg, will still be without their international stand-off Karle Hammond after the death of his younger brother.

1 can be No. 1 says Hingis

her meteoric rise by dethroning Steffi Graf as the that. She is not only my tenwomen's No. 1 in 1997 — a nis coach, she is a terrific prediction as fearless as the

next year'

Swiss newcomer will depose her sooner rather than later. Hingis did not argue with that view after ending her first senior year at an aston-ishing No. 4 in the rankings. Asked yesterday whether it would take another three

years to reach the top, Hingis illustrated her self-belief by replying: "I hope it's not go-ing to be that long to be No.1." She dismissed the chances of burn-out. "I am not Austin, Capriati or Jaeger," she said. "I am just myself and I have a

different style of tennis. Sometimes you see that they made a mistake in life." Hingis credits her balanced attitude to her mother, Me-

ARTINA HINGIS be pion. "She always was the lieves she can grown most important thing in my tennis. I hope it stays like

16-year-old's game.
Graf, 10 years Hingis's Perth before helping Marc senior, has predicted the Rosset, handicapped by back trouble, overcome Romania 2-1 in Switzerland's opening match in the Hopman Cup. Tim Henman, the British

No. 1, warmed up for next month's Australian Open by Herbert Wiltschnig 6-3, 6-2 in the first round of the Qutar Open in Doha.

In Adelaide, the defending champion Yevgeny Kafelni-kov fell to a shock defeat on the opening day of the Australism Men's Hard Court Cham-pionship when he was besten 6-2, 6-2 by the world No. 47 Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden in only 49 minutes.

Greg Rusedski, Britain's No. 2, polled out on the eve of the tournament because of



Police review **Leach injury**

Vic Batcheider

OLICE have asked to see a video of the con-troversial Boxing Day game between Sheffield Steelers and Cardiff Devils in which Steelers Canadian forward Jamie Leach suffered a double fracture of his left

Shannon Hope, who was dis-missed from the game for the "high stick" offence that caused the injury. Steelers lost the match 3-2

A Steelers spokesman said last night that the police had requested a video of the game. Copies were being made, he said, and would be passed to the club's solicitors.

Meanwhile Mike Blaisdell.

Nottingham Panthers' coach, may be reassessing their litle was out of their reach, he said three weeks ago when they won the B&H Cup, be-cause they had "sacrificed a few league games" to concen-

irnte on the cup.

Sunday's 9-5 home win over the Newcastle Cohras, though, was Panthers' fourth victory in six games since then. And they have gained a stances," Blaisdell said.

including Saturday's 3-2 including Saturday's 3-2 overtime defeat at Sheffield as, under Superleague rules, teams losing in overtime retain the point they would have gained for the draw at the end of regulation time.

Panthers' Paul Adey and Marty Dallman both achieved hat-tricks as Newcastle were beaten and afterwards Highs

double fracture of his left cheekbone.

Leach complained to the South Yorkshire force about the incident, involving Devils' Great Britain captain shannon Hope, who was dishared as well as we have all season.

Now they are in fourth place, although the 11-point margin between them and league-leading Cardiff probably means Blaisdell's title prediction will prove accurate. But as the Superleague moves into the second year of its existence, he and his Basingstoke counterpart, the Great Britain coach Peter Woods, share the same con-

cern for its future, namely that those in charge must take a broader-based view, putting the overall good of the league and the protection of the smaller clubs above the interests of their own clubs.

Marsh kick-starts East

SARAH MARSH, a 20-year-old British kick-boxing champion, showed her hockey prowess while playing for East at Milton Keynes yesterday, finishing as top scorer in the Women's Junior Terri-torial Tournament which her team won for a record

East, peeding only a draw, shared four goals with West at the last. They had looked set for a victory when Marsh, playing as left-attacker, dominated the early play and scored her third goal of the

Clewlow then saw Anna Lambert run 50 yards to open West's account Jemma Martin added a corner goal and West nearly snatched a third. over West with late goals by

Jennie Bimson and Natalie Hannah, but the team never blended and Enished third. South were runners-up, end-ing with a 2-0 win over North. Louise Bevan scored both from

was stopped for the lines to be cleared and after that players were unsure of their footing. East twice hit the post before Kerry Moore put them 2-0 up in the 44th minute. An aimless pass by Melanic

Midlands, the favourites, recovered to snatch a 2-1 win have. - Nigel Benn

two of the team who started against Switzerland last night



Clap hands on deck . . . the crew of Group 4 show their delight as she crosses the line in Wellington harbour yesterday

Group 4 drifts in to second victory

bour yesterday to take the second leg after 40 days' sailing from Rio de Janeiro. Also the winner of the first leg, she was greeted by a

cannon, bagpipes and more than 500 spectators.

Captained by Mike Gol-ding, Group 4 had made slow progress in the final stages because of abnor-

ROUP 4 maintained mally calm conditions and corner and that was it, it died. Fifteen hours later when she led the other 13 of Save the Children, which I was getting grief about it. had cut the lead by about 40

miles: Grant Winfield, a New Zealander on board Group 4, had told his crew-mates ously windy weather. "They asked me about windy Wellington and I sald, 'Yes, it gets pretty windy there,' and all of a

"In the lest hour we could see Save the Children in the distance so there was

definitely huge relief when we crossed the line. "It was a great trip. We didn't have too much rough weather, and generally we had about 25–30 knots [of wind]. It did quiet down every now and then but we had up to 45 knots." sudden we came round the

Winfield declined to be drawn on whether Group 4 would win the race, which goes the "wrong way" around the world. "There are four legs to go and it's still anybody's race." Celebrations were ex-

pected to continue over the next five days despite an overnight tragedy in Wellington harbour, where four people died and one was missing after a fishing boat and a container ship collided.



A bad tackle from behind is like an elephant . . .

Robert Pryce kept his ears flapping for the partiament about a riot during the prime Minister of '96 - not all of it from the Prime Minister of '96 - not all of '96 - not all of it from the Prime Minister of '96 - not all of it from the Prime Minister of '96 - not all of '96 - n wit of '96 - not all of it from the Prime Minister

credit to them players and that Scotland team may I continue it. — Glenn It's 2,000 of us aga Hoddle's first touch of the drunkards. — Javie

This has had to come from my heart, not my head; my head said cast him out. — Hoddle on Gazza if you believe that life goes on afterwards, is the spirit black

is it yellow, is it pink, is it white, that's the main issue. And I've got a belief that life does go on afterwards, and it's made it easier for me and it's helped me to explain these things to other people that might have a problem. — You need a degree in kidology

Panos Eliades, bug-eyes ofter a 24-hour telephone chat with Don King about a Lennax Lewis—Mike Tyson fight. Noth ing was settled

I've the body of a man half my age. Unfortunately he's in terrible shape. — George Foreman, WBU heavyweight champion The British press hate a winner who's British. They don't like any British man to have balls as big as a cow's like I

I am genial but I am also mad - Hristo Stoichkoo, Bulgar It was noticeable that only

So all credit to Terry, all | Cruig Brown, who selected It's 2,000 of us against 70,000 drunkards. — Javier Clemente rallies Spatn for the England

Don't worry. The next six years'll fly by. — Stuart Pears' to Gareth Southgate, whose penalty shoot-out miss ended England's Euro 96 run rm Barcelona-bound, baby! — Dennis Mitchell after winning the US Olympic trial 100 metres in Atlanta, where the Games were to be held

During the Hendry match something just clicked in my mind. This game is all between the ears. — Dave Har-old, winless all sasson until beating Stephen Hendry in the Regal Welsh Open Jalabert put in such a sprint

that he gained about 20 seconds immediately. There was nothing I could do. It was awesome. If I had tried to stay with him I would have blown my nuts off - Chris Boardman on the Paris-Nice The team spirit is fantastic. It is just disappointing that we

are not carrying it on to the field. — Leeds coach Dean Bell I was totally unaware of the commotion and I realised there was trouble only when somebody's body, which was apparently thrown from somewhere near the entrance, landed on my back. Ben Okurro, Deputy Speaker

He's not a lad you'll see standing at a urinal holding a glass of champagne. — Jack Hixon, the far-seeing scout who spotted the 13-year-old Alan him to Southampton It would be nice not to have

barriers at the World Cup grounds but it would be a break with French practice. As a rule our fans do not have the discipline to wait until the end of a match to storm the ground. — Christophe Kukawka, a spokesman for the France 98 organisers It took me a long time to ge

over that. All my life I know I will always be three inches short. — Abdel Benazzi on the French World Cup try that wasn't against South Africa After that, sex is a bit of an anticlimus - Grand National wirmer Mick Fitzgerald after riding Rough Quest to victory A bad tackle from behind is like an elephant: difficult to describe but you know it when you see it. Of course it

must be penalised. - John Major talking soccer I love cricket. I love it that a game takes, what is it, two weeks? — Michael Jordan, Chicago Bull second quarter. If you haven't got it, all you

do is end up in the wall on the first lap. The proof of the pud-ding is in the clock. — Nigel Mansell, back on the track in December. He decided against

American Football

Packers block 49ers' way

N A wet and windy afternoon in San Fran-cisco the usually po-tent 49ers offense managed only two touchdowns against that was enough to earn them a date with the Green Bay Packers on the frozen wastes of Lambeau Field.

The Packers knocked the 49ers out last year and look set to do the same on Saturday as they are virtually un-bestable at home. San Francisco and the Ea-

gles, who were quite evenly matched, had to deal with pelting rain and wind gusts of up to 65mph. Defenses domi-nated and scoring opportuni-ties were scarce; the differ-ence was that the 49ers took their chances whereas the Eagles squandered theirs. The Eagles advanced into

times but always came away empty-handed. Ty Detmer, their quarterback, twice threw an interception at the goal-line, and they missed a field-goal attempt on the third Steve Young at quarterback was outstanding for the 49ers,

scrambling all game despite bruising ribs when he clat-tered past defenders for a nine-yard touchdown in the

Young grimaced whenever he was hit and some of his throws revealed his discomfort. But he stayed in and combined with Jerry Rice on a couple of scintillating plays

"We played very effective mud football today," said Young. "I don't care what the stats say, we played an effective ball game. The defense comes up with some big plays and we go home with a 14-0 win."

It was the first time the Ragles had failed to score since losing to the Washington Red-skins in 1991. "This was not a good game for Ty," said Ray Rhodes, their coach. "And I think everyone knows that. The turnovers in the red area, you can't do that, you can't Jaguars.

points." Detmer was replaced by Mark Ryplen in the third quarter after injuring a ham-The play-off picture is now complete. In the National

Football Conference the 49ers play the Packers while the Carolina Panthers host the defending Super Bowl cham-pions, the Dallas Cowboys. In the American Football Con-ference the Pittsburgh Steelers face the New England Patriots at Foxboro Stadium while the Denver Broncos entertain the Jacksonville

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MOVE OVER ALAN BALL, ASA HARTFORD, STEVE COPPELL AND PHIL NEAL...

Clark steps in to City boots and all

lan Ross

RANK CLARK became the latest hopeful to tread a familiar path sterday when he became Manchester City's fifth manager this season.

after leaving Nottingham Forest, Clark has been asked to undertake a dam-age-limitation exercise at Maine Road. A task which he himself described as very difficult" begins at Birmingham City tomor-row, where if they lose they could sink even nearer to the bottom of the First

This season City's first-team affairs have been handled by Alan Ball, who resigned in late August, Steve Coppell, who quit in November after only 33 days in charge, and the caretakers Asa Hartford and Phil Neal.

And as the 53-year-old Clark was installed as City's 15th full-time man-ager in 25 years, there was another departure: Tony Book was sacked after 30 years as player, manager, caretaker manager and, lat-terly, first-team coach. "The decision had noth-

ing to do with me," said Clark, who is expected shortly to invite his assis-tants at Forest, Alan Hill and Liam O'Kane, to join him at Maine Road.

Despite City's perilous position, Clark said he was delighted with his new as-signment. "Why did I take the job? I was out of work and I do need to work said. "This was always go-ing to be a massive opportupleased that someone is me.

"Manchester City has enormous potential. I know that's said of all clubs but on Boxing Day they attracted a crowd of 30,000 and at the weekend they took 6,000 supporters to Barnsley. The club needs stabilising but, even so, it doesn't sound like a job from hell to me."

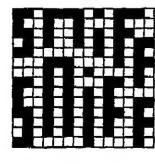
Clark is believed to have about £10 million to help regenerate the senior squad. His first act as manager will be to try to sign Forest's reserve-team goalkeeper Tommy Wright, currently on loan at Reading. The size of Clark's job be-

came immediately clear when he was asked to out-line his ambitions. "I am sure that we can avoid releactually seen City play this season but have been told they are lacking in confldence. I am just hoping that some of the players are simply underachieving.
"My job is to realise what potential there already is

here and then to add to it when I feel it is necessary." Clark's appointment may come to represent a water shed because although his 31/4-year contract worth

25,000 a week was apparently negotiated by Francis Lee, the City chairman's influence appears to be waning. It is believed Clark was the choice of City's new religious to her was the choice of City's new religious to the control of City's new majority share-holder Stephen Boler; Lee had spent the previous four former Leeds manager

More soccer, page 14





THE UNBLOCKER



Putting his best foot forward . . . Frank Clark, City's 15th full-time manager in 25 years, arrives at Maine Road yesterday

Captains at daggers drawn as series ends under dark cloud

NGLAND's disasin recent years means here are few places can be accused of a superior ity complex. If only it would pappen after a Test series in Australia. Instead the charge was levelled yesterday by Campbell as a drawn Test series degenerated into a game of little victories.

Michael Atherton's deter mination to present England as moral victors — claiming that had the weather not intervened they would have won both Tests, in Bulawayo and here — had a good deal of logic on its side but left Camp-bell infuriated at what he regarded as patronising

English attitudes.

"All this gets under my skin," he said after overnight rain had ruled out the final day's play with the second Test at Harare Sports Club in-triguingly poised. "England should abandon their superiboth sides were evenly matched. I don't think there's too much to choose between New Zealand, England and ourselves at the moment.

As Zimbabwe are rated as the weakest Test nation in the world, with New Zealand and England generally regarded as the two countries just above them, Campbell's as-sessment was damning. However much England dressed things up, in his mind they the bottom of the pile. You're As Bad As We Are. You could almost smell the tabloid

Campbell and Atherton are not natural soul mates. Ather-ton is the detached Oxbridge graduate who chooses his words carefully and who is most relaxed when he is socialising with close friends. Campbell is readily identifiable as a blunt and uncompli-cated southern African who needs no second invitation to speak his mind.

Atherton also recognises the political importance of presenting a drawn series in

Full Harare scoreboard

	DIGLARD	
ľ	First Indoor	
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ľ	"M A Atherion c Compbell b Whittall	٠
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ľ	N Hussalp c A Flower b Street	
ı	G P Thomps c Deldar b Street	
ı	J P Crewley not out	
1	C White c Campbell b Whittell	
1	R D S Croft c G W Flower b Whitesti	4
1	D Gough b Strang	
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ı	P C R Tutnell b Streek	
ì	Extras (01, 165, w1, n65)	
ł		_
ı	Total (63.1 overa)	11
и		-

all, since the former chairman of selectors Raymond Illing

could not win in Zimbabwe they really would be in a Win, and so what? Lose and be pilloried. From the outset for England this has been the

no-win tour. Campbell has no such complications; with so few players of Test quality to choose from, he cannot even be accused of picking the wrong side. He would rather slap his oppo-nent on the back, invite him into the murky, hard-drinking bar of the Harare Sports Club, where the beer begins to flow soon after breakfast, and

England's present crop of players, by and large, remain above such dedicated socialising and many have preferred to retreat to the team-room to play Balderdash. Campbell clearly thinks they are pretty

"England can say what they like," he said, "but the two Tests were drawn and we competed. In all Zimbabwe's 22 Tests this has been one of our easier series. For them to say that they dominated is as tounding really."
But it is vital for England's

well-being that they depart for New Zealand next week with confidence intact, and Ather ton's honest appraisal of the series addressed that need. "If the matches had run

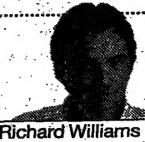
"For them to say We mur dered you and you know it' is clutching at thin air," he said

opted, on current form, for Stewart (but only as a bats-man), Knight, Crawley, Croft and Gough. Both Atherton

angered Zimbabwe's cricket-ing public for the past week: the outburst of David Lloyd, England's coach, after they failed by one run to win in

'As far as I'm concerned they are just trying to keep the press satisfied or to con themselves. It became quite monot onous and geed our guys up." One wonders how enthusi stically England will look forward to a return to Zimbabwe. This may be one of the more relaxed places on earth but it is doubtful whether England have ever realised it.

First Man who needs a sting in his tale



T TOOK Mike Atherton a long time to live down the few seconds in which he entered the name of Milan Kunders on the dotted line marked "Favourite author" i the Cricketers' Who's Who a few years ago. So it was a little surprising

to see him giving another hos-tage to fortune by volunteer-ing the information, on the eve of England's departure for Zimbabwe, that he had packed The First Man, the autobiographical novel on which Al-bert Camus, the well-known goalkeeper, was working

when he died. The First Man? This may, of course, have been in the na-ture of a wry joke about captains who also open the bat-ting. Or, facing his fourth winter on tour as England's skipper, he may understand ably have come over a bit existential.

At any rate he will have been amused by the passage about a third of the way through the book, when the protagonist — the boy Jac-ques Cormery, Camus's alter ego—sets off for a day's rabbit-shooting with his uncle and a group of friends. "All good fellows," the author reflects, "at least for this occasion, happy to have escaped for a day from the workshop, from small overcrowded apartments, sometimes from their wives too, uninhibited and in a mood of amused toler ance that is peculiar to men when they have got together among themselves for some brief violent pleasure . . . On these Sundays, Jacques

men was good and could nourish the soul." Just like a cricket tour, really. And let us hope that the company of Atherton's fellow sionals, denied the pres ence of their partners, has nourished his soul, which beyond his wildest imaginings stoce he answered England's call in the summer of 1993,

halfway through an Ashes From a distance, the latest ordeal has seemed no less confusing and humiliating than every other winter tour this decade. Assuming he survives as captain after the New Zea-land leg of the present excurhis second home series against Australia — and, in effect, the end of a four year cycle — without having convinced anyone that English cricket has made any

real progress from the state in which Ted Dexter and Gra-ham Gooch left it. When Atherton took the job, he was popularly supposed to be a golden boy, risen without apparent effort. In his own mind, however, his career had always been a matter of peaks and troughs. It was three and troughs. It was the caribbean, on his first tour as capitain, that he spoke to me about losing his youthful sense of "invincibility" when he was first laid low by what turned out to be a chronic back problem. "Up until then I'd always

been good physically at what-ever I'd done," he said. "I was a good cricketer, and although I'm not saying I was special at other sports, I was always other sports, I was always competent, always competitive. I'd win on the golf course, I'd win on the pool table, all that kind of thing. I was fairly confident of my own physical abilities. Then the injury came along, and suddenly it could have been the end of my career. That's when the career. That's when the doubts start to come into your

He was still several months away from the dirt-in-the-pocket business, which was when his second shield — the virtually unanimous approval of fans, officials and fellow players — disintegrated overnight. "It's not many times that an England captain could say that he had full offi-cial and public support, with no threat to his job," he said at the time. "That's certainly not the case now, and it's my

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Correctly, he was given the benefit of the doubt. And eventually his obduracy allowed him to see off the meddlesome presence of Ray Llingworth. But from today's perspective sisted of getting rid of obstructhing substantial in their

Lloyd have a lot to do, and not much time in which to do it, if they are to convince us of their fit-ness to lead England out against Australia in the first Test at Edgbaston on June 5. An isolated victory will not be enough. We have cele-brated those before under Atherton, and each turned out to be a false dawn. Now, in New Zealand, we need evidence of real collective progress if the final page of the Atherton saga is not to leave both him and us in mid-air.

Guardian Crossword No 20.848

Set by Auracaria



er R Tittin and X T Francis

emerged as the strongest team," he said. "But for two

hours lost to rain in Bulawayo

we would have won, and we would have won in Harare if

it wasn't for the weather.
"We began both Tests badly
but we have played positive

cricket. We took up the chal-leage in the run chase in Bu-

lawayo, and we would have taken up the challenge by de-claring here. A drawn series doesn't put any more pressure on us. Three Tests in New

Zealand gives us a bette

chance of a positive result in

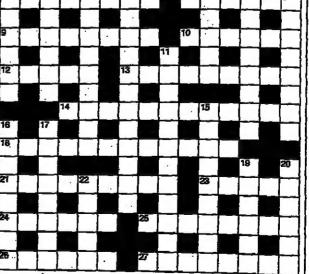
Campbell was irritated

the series and I'm confident

On bad terms . . . captains Alistair Campbell and Michael Atherton, PHOTOGRAPH: STU FORSTER

But wait, what's this? It's a delicious Cézannewich - still in its commemorative wrapper! A Provençal-style crabstick and goat's dropping triple-decker, left over from that memorable day spent queuing for Cézanne at the Tate. Adrian Searle

G2 page 12



could hold water (8) 5 Publicity about pig going by

sea (6) 9 Little time to phone going by road (8)

10 Make a choice by keeping arbitrator (6) 12 Nothing that exists for a group (5) 13 Wrong clue - a hint - it's

wrong (9) 14 Group of a lot of cremated ashes? (8,4) 18 Absent without leave, back

in the drink, worse than usual? (5,7) 21 Joint problem for non-U king — it exists (9) 23 Difficult? Too bad! (5)

24 I mostly see a quarter of a

25 Cake and roll, possibly as hot inside (4,4) 26 Victims of a war that diverted the Severn (6)

around river to the North (8) Down 1 Call the lot for the day (6)

27 Armaments exhausted

2 Exceeding the right is stupid

3 Bottle opener for Irish prison officer (9) 4 Behaviour with something clinging about it,

transmitting power (12) 6 Punishment comes between John and society (5) 7 A catalyst isn't unnatural (8) 8 Ship's boy in backyard with

bard's brunette (4,4) 11 Its constituents could be fewer, at least — but they won't be (7,5)



15 Warning of craft needing ballast? (9)

16 Died for love, in language of sacrifice (8)

17 Fool translated yesterday into tradesman? (8) 19 Induce to wrong-doing. being "fair and wise and

good and gay" (6) 20 Rough copy with hard and 22 Scout with the right look (5)

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 338 238, Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, Sem-Spm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service



